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CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Further on Israeli Plan To Kill 'Arafat *[Kuwait AL-SIYASAH 19 Jul]* 1
'Green Light' Said Given *[Kuwait AL-QABAS 19 Jul]* 2
'Arafat Receives USSR's Tarasov, Message *[Sanaa VOP]* 2
'Official' Statement on 'Fabricated' Leaflets *[Sanaa VOP]* 2
PLO Spokesman on Fabrications *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 2
More on PLO Accusations *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
PLO Denies Permission Given for Meetings *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
Abu-Iyad: 'Vicious Circle' in Talks With U.S. *[London AL-MAJALLAH 18-24 Jul]* 3
Fatah General Congress Slated 'After 28 Jul' *[Kuwait AL-QABAS 18 Jul]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

National Assembly Adopts Electoral Law *[Algiers TV]* 5
FLN Provides Guidance to 2 Newspapers *[APS]* 5

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Israeli Delegation 19 Jul *[MENA]* 6
Israelis End Visit, Depart *[MENA]* 6
'Abd-al-Majid Interviewed *[Jerusalem International]* 6
Mosad Network Reportedly Uncovered in Cairo *[Voice of the Mountain]* 6
Mubarak, Al-Qadhdhafi To Meet in Addis Ababa *[AL-WAFD 18 Jul]* 7
Mubarak Cited on Peace, Israeli Initiative *[MENA]* 7
Mubarak Attends Opening of NDP Congress 20 Jul *[Cairo Radio]* 7
Paper Cited on Sharon's Call To Kill 'Arafat *[MENA]* 7
Paper on Calls To End U.S.-PLO Dialogue *[MENA]* 8
'Provisional' Reform Agreement Reached With IMF *[AL-AHRAM 18 Jul]* 8

Libya

Tunisia's Baccouche Visits Banghazi 17-19 Jul 8
Comments on Visit *[JANA]* 8
Jallud Addresses Delegation *[JANA]* 9
Baccouche Signs Protocol *[JANA]* 9
Premier Departs for Home *[JANA]* 10

Sudan

Al-Bashir To Attend OAU Summit in Ethiopia *[SUNA]* 10
Plans To Meet With Mengistu *[SUNA]* 10

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

'Condemnation' of Bulgarian Policy Toward Turks *[SPA]* 11

United Arab Emirates

RCC Member on Revolution's Goal, Garang *[WAKH]* 11

IRAQ

Uninhabited Buffer Zone To Reach Syrian Border *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 12
Saddam Addresses Revolution Ceremony Participants *[INA]* 12
Foreign Officials Visit for Anniversary Events 12
Saddam Receives Soviet Official *[INA]* 12
Industry Minister Meets Soviets *[INA]* 12
Ramadan Receives CSSR Minister *[INA]* 13
Ramadan Receives GDR Minister *[INA]* 13
Ramadan, Yugoslav Minister Confer *[INA]* 13
Saddam Receives ACC Delegations *[INA]* 13
Saddam Receives Al-Qadhdhafi's Son *[INA]* 13
Saddam Meets PDRY Deputy Premier *[INA]* 13
Ramadan Receives PDRY Official *[INA]* 14
Saddam Meets Ethiopians, Tunisians *[INA]* 14
Ramadan Meets Turkish Minister *[INA]* 14
Saddam Receives Brazilian Minister *[Baghdad Radio]* 14
President Receives Cuban Official *[INA]* 14
Ramadan Meets Nicaraguan Official *[INA]* 15
Ramadan Receives Other Officials *[INA]* 15
Interior Minister Meets Counterparts *[INA]* 15
South Asian Delegations Depart *[Baghdad Voice of the Masses]* 15
More Delegations Leave Baghdad 15
Delegations' Departures Noted *[INA]* 16

ISRAEL

'Confidants:' Shamir 'Determined' To Fire Sharon *[HA'ARETZ 20 Jul]* 17
Milo on Conflict *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 17
Dismissal Intention Denied *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
'Key' Officials on PLO Acceptance of Initiative *[THE JERUSALEM POST 21 Jul]* 18
Shamir Requests Meeting With Mubarak in Egypt *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 18
Request Rejected *[Jerusalem TV]* 18
Officials 'Pleased' With Dialogue With Egypt *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Comment Refused on Contact With Syria in Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Netanyahu on U.S. Senate Vote on PLO Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Arens Cited on Decision *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Shamir Meets Pro-Fatah E. Jerusalem Journalist *[HA'ARETZ 21 Jul]* 20
UK, Soviet Union Protest Sharon Remarks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Sharon Sees 'Different Likud' After Vote *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT Supplement) 7 Jul]* 21
Editorial Urges Alignment To Leave Coalition *[HA'ARETZ 7 Jul]* 22
Editorial: Likud Decisions Lead to 'Dead End' *[AL-NAHAR 7 Jul]* 23
Columnist Views Attacks Against Palestinians *[Jerusalem International]* 24
Assesses Jordan's Al-Qasim Speech *[Jerusalem International]* 24
Analyst Sees Major Improvement in SLA *[HA'ARETZ 20 Jul]* 24
Poll Shows Palestinians Favor Elections *[HA'ARETZ 2 Jul]* 25
1 Dead, Several Injured in Territories 20 Jul *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 26
Further on 20 Jul Incidents *[HADASHOT 21 Jul]* 26
Hamas Leaflet Urges W. Bank School Attendance *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27

JORDAN

Paris Club Agrees To Reschedule Kingdom's Debts *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 28
Paper Notes Plan To Change Currency to Pound *[Jerusalem AL-SHA'B 19 Jul]* 28
Iraqi, Egyptian Foreign Ministers Affirm Support *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 21 Jul]* 28
ACC Foreign Ministers Meeting in Amman Noted 28
Meetings Begin 20 Jul *[Amman Radio]* 28

First Working Session Ends *[Amman Radio]* 29
Endorse Joint Working Paper *[Amman Radio]* 30
Al-Qasim on ACC Discussions *[Amman Radio]* 30

LEBANON

U.S. Reportedly To 'Correct' Position *[KUNA]* 31
12 Killed, 95 Wounded in 20 Jul Violence *[Beirut Radio]* 31
Spanish Nationals Evacuated *[RFL]* 31
Operations, Helicopter Flights Reported in South *[Beirut Radio]* 31
Israeli Gunboats Reportedly Escort Ships *[Beirut Radio]* 31
Iraqi Ba'th Party Official Gunned Down in Sidon *[VOL]* 32
Fijian UN Soldier Injured in Midnight Attack *[Voice of National Resistance]* 32
Sha'ban Lauds PLO-Lebanese Meeting in Tehran *[IRNA]* 32
'Awn on Lebanese Forces' Role, FROG Missiles *[RFL]* 32
Syria Reportedly Asks for Repayment of Debts *[RFL]* 32

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

U.S. Official Waits To See Jailed American *[AFP]* 33
Photographer Freed *[AFP]* 33
Sayyed Amin Meets UN Representatives *[Kabul Radio]* 33
Najibullah Congratulates Nicaragua on Anniversary *[BAKHTAR]* 33
Najibullah Sends Greetings to Jaruzelski *[BAKHTAR]* 34
Hatif Meets Soviet Trade Union Delegation *[Kabul Radio]* 34
Education Minister 'Sacked' by Najibullah *[AFP]* 34
Dismissal Due to 'Teacher Unrest' *[BBC]* 34
Replacement Appointed *[Kabul Radio]* 35
Mujahidin Reported Active in Khowst, Paktia *[Islamabad Radio]* 35
Operations Near Khowst *[AFP]* 35
More 'Extremists' Rockets Hit Kabul 19 Jul *[Kabul Radio]* 35
Missiles Fired at Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 35
Attempted Bombing in Kabul Reportedly Foiled *[Kabul Radio]* 35
Suspected Rebel Rocket Hits Kabul Kindergarten *[AFP]* 35
Rebels Reportedly Enter Suburbs of Jalalabad *[Islamabad Radio]* 36
Tensions Rising Between Rival Mujahidin Groups *[AFP]* 36
25 'Extremists' Killed in Internecine Fighting *[Kabul Radio]* 37
Red Cross To Visit Soviet POW's *[Islamabad Radio]* 37
Citizens Hold Protest Rally at Pakistani Embassy *[Kabul Radio]* 37
Najibullah Meets Elders of Kabul Province *[Kabul Radio]* 37
Defense Minister Inspects Units at Pol-e Charkhi *[BAKHTAR]* 37
'Ulumi Outlines Military, Political Situation *[BAKHTAR]* 38

India

Commerce Minister Views U.S. Trade Situation *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Defense Minister Pant Visits Washington 38
Assesses Outcome of Talks *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Comments on 'Philosophy of Defense' *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Commentator Views Visit *[Delhi International]* 39
Editorial on Trip's Outcome *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 6 Jul]* 40
PRC 'Pro-Democracy' Balloon Discovered *[AFP]* 40
Assassination Attempt on Tamil Leader Denied *[Delhi TV]* 41
Talks Offered on Timing of IPKF Withdrawal *[Delhi Radio]* 41
Tamil Parties on Killings; Envoy Meets Gandhi *[Delhi Radio]* 41
India-Pakistan Joint News Release *[Delhi Radio]* 41
Arms, Ammunition Seized From Pakistani Intruders *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Pant in Canada Views Defense Expenditures *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Meeting With USSR on Science, Technology Ends *[Delhi Radio]* 42

Bomb Blast in Srinagar 'Fourth in Two Days' *[AFP]* 42
Terrorist Violence Kills 13 in Punjab 20 Jul *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Home Minister on Terrorism, Punjab Elections *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Parliamentary Proceedings Stalled by Opposition *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Gandhi Comments on Opposition Policy, Principles *[Delhi Radio]* 43
New Governors Appointed in 5 States *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Police Seize 10 Kg of Heroin in Delhi 16 Jul *[AFP]* 44
Task Force To Curb Petroleum Smuggling to Nepal *[Delhi Radio]* 45

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Campaign Speech *[Tehran TV]* 45
Ayatollah Rohani Cited on Election Prospects *[London AL-MAJALLAH 28 Jun-4 Jul]* 49
Council of Guardians Appoints Officials *[Tehran Radio]* 50
IRNA Describes Security, Expediency Councils 50
Daily Urges Strong Response to France Over Envoy *[IRNA]* 50
Iravani Denies Report on Moscow Agreement *[IRNA]* 51
Commentator Views Majlis Speaker's USSR Visit *[TEHRAN TIMES 4 Jul]* 51
Larijani Recalls Gromyko's Views on Iran *[IRNA]* 52
Commentary on U.S Justification for Aggression *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Daily Says Relations With U.S. 'Irreparable' *[IRNA]* 53
Pakistani Defense Official Arrives 19 Jul *[IRNA]* 53
Prime Minister Meets Turkish Oil Minister *[IRNA]* 54
New Head for Foreign Ministry Section Named *[IRNA]* 54
Shipping Service to East Africa to Begin *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Khamene'i Addresses 200,000 Worker Supporters *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sees Off DPRK Envoy *[IRNA]* 55
Majlis Speaker on Need To Improve Production *[IRNA]* 55
Economy, Post-War Reconstruction Examined *[TEHRAN TIMES 18 Jun]* 56
Voice, Vision Plans Expanded Programming *[Tehran Radio]* 56

Pakistan

Further on Iranian Foreign Minister's Visit 57
Meets Yaqub Khan, Ishaq Khan *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Meets With Benazir Bhutto *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Terms Talks 'Fruitful' *[Islamabad International]* 57
Yaqub Khan's Visit to Colombo Confirmed *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Minister Cheema Discusses Defense Issues *[DAWN 2 Jul]* 58

Sri Lanka

Pakistani Foreign Minister To Visit 22 Jul *[LANKAPUVATH]* 59
MP's Urge Probe of 'Foreign' Source of Violence *[AFP]* 59
Search Stepped Up for Missing American Woman *[AFP]* 60

Palestinian Affairs

Further on Israeli Plan To Kill 'Arafat

JN2007201289 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 19 Jul 89 pp 1, 17

[By Najih Khalil]

[Text] The U.S. Administration intervened at the right moment to stop the implementation of a secret Israeli plan to assassinate Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. Shamir had personally supervised the preparation of this plan 6 months ago. He did not submit it to the Israeli Inner Cabinet for fear it might be leaked.

Intensive meetings between the United States and Israel took place for many days to stop the implementation of this plan because the U.S. Administration believes that if implemented, the plan would create chaos and instability in the Middle East that would be difficult to control. Unlike the United States, Tel Aviv believes that it would open wide vistas for Israel to negotiate with Palestinian notables in the occupied territories and would enable the implementation of autonomy.

In one of the meetings, U.S. President George Bush informed Israeli Prime Minister Shamir that Washington would find itself compelled to upgrade contacts with the PLO and call for an urgent international conference for the discussion of the Middle East problem if Israel tried to carry out its plan.

Bush proposed to Shamir that he send several U.S. State Department experts to occupied Palestine to study with the Israelis the consequences of such a plan.

The information AL-SIYASAH has obtained mentions that Shamir promised Bush he would suspend the implementation of this plan. He also welcomed the dispatch of the U.S. experts and expressed his objections to the meetings between Fatah's second-in-command Salah Khalaf and the U.S. Ambassador [in Tunis] Pelletreau, and said that such meetings constitute an upgrading of dialogue with the PLO. At the same time, Shamir set as a condition the freezing of U.S.-Palestinian dialogue for some time and that the PLO must announce that it had nothing to do with the bus operation which took place in Jerusalem.

The Israeli plan to assassinate the Palestinian leader, code-named "The Hunt for the Best of Heads," consists of the assassination of Yasir 'Arafat as a first step, to be followed by the successive assassinations of the 10 most important Palestinian leaders in accordance with Sharon's dictum that 'Arafat is a lion around whom all the other lions rally.

The plan consists of sending 100 Israeli commandos, who were trained in a secret camp in the Negev, to Tunis by using planes especially equipped with jamming devices against radar and monitoring systems. The Israeli commandos would then be deployed near the offices and houses belonging to the PLO, after collecting the necessary information on 'Arafat's movements and whereabouts. The commandos would then simultaneously attack all the offices and houses which 'Arafat is believed to frequent.

Under this plan, a few months after 'Arafat's assassination, the other Palestinian leaders would be assassinated, each within a timespan of approximately 2 months. The plan estimates that before the end of 1990, 10 of the most important Palestinian leaders would thus be wiped out, and that at the end of this stage, a new stage would begin in 1991 during which negotiations would be held with the Palestinian notables, and which would paralyze Palestinian action until the year 2000, according to the Israeli assessment.

The information that AL-SIYASAH obtained from Arab and Palestinian sources reveals that the 100 Israeli commandos were trained in the past 4 months by 30 experts who are specialists in attack techniques and urban fighting. The Israeli commandos were also intensively trained in methods of electronic communications for 12 weeks.

The information also says that the American monitoring and following-up services in the Middle East have drawn red circles on specific indications in reports which Washington received from its embassies in Tel Aviv and Tunis. The indications almost confirm that Israel intends to implement a terrorist operation in Tunisia.

By looking at pictures taken by an American satellite of an Israeli camp in the Negev area, it was clear that the Israeli assault training took place on simulations very similar to the offices and residences affiliated with the PLO in different areas in the Tunisian capital.

Palestinian security services that have had large-scale details of this plan for more than 3 months say that there are seven alternative Israeli plans within the overall plan. These plans are prepared and their hit squads are chosen. One of these plans, called "The Victory Plan" [khitat al-nasr], was implemented in a European capital. However, the vigilance of Palestinian security men in cooperation with the security services in the European country thwarted the plan. A number of professional snipers equipped with sophisticated automatic rifles, who were deployed at a number of buildings opposite a building that 'Arafat was expected to visit for talks with party members and officials, were arrested.

At the same time, the Palestinian security services said the PLO's apparatuses and offices throughout the world were placed on a general alert more than 2 weeks ago when the plane carrying Yasir 'Arafat disappeared for several hours while en route from Pyongyang to Hanoi. Later, it transpired that a technical failure in the plane forced its pilot to make a forced landing at Beijing Airport.

The Palestinian security services added that the alert was enforced because one of the Israeli plans against Yasir 'Arafat provides for the hijacking or downing of his plane after making sure that 'Arafat is on board.

The Palestinian political leadership discussed in several meetings in Algiers and Tunis the details of these terrorist Israeli plans and decided in light of a proposal submitted by 'Arafat to discover and identify an alternative Palestinian figure in the coming phase so that this figure can be qualified to take over in case one of the Israeli plans succeeds, God forbid.

It transpired later that an unannounced decision was made by the leadership to qualify Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu-Iyad, for this role; particularly as the Palestinian leadership is fully aware that one of the most important objectives behind the assassination of martyred leader Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] was to thwart the Palestinian action and thus push an alternative leadership to the fore in the event 'Arafat is assassinated.

'Green Light' Said Given

JN2007181689 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 19 Jul 89 p 21

[Text] London—Asked by AL-QABAS about Israeli Trade and Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon's call for eliminating Yasir 'Arafat, Palestinian sources have said that the PLO leadership in Tunis has recently received information from French and Italian security sources—in the course of joint cooperation—that the Israeli Government "security committee" comprising the senior ministers who usually meet under the chairmanship of the Israeli prime minister recently held a special meeting. During this meeting, the Palestinian sources added, the Israeli "security committee" gave the green light to the command staff and Israeli intelligence to proceed with the plan to assassinate four prominent Palestinian leaders: Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Hani al-Hasan, and Bassam Abu-Sharif.

AL-QABAS noted that during his recent visit to the British capital Abu-Sharif was escorted by armed guards day and night. The guards did not leave Abu-Sharif even while he slept, a departure from previous arrangements.

'Arafat Receives USSR's Tarasov, Message

JN2007174289 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, received a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The message includes the Soviet view on developments in the Middle East and on efforts to resolve the Palestine question. The Palestinian news agency, which reported this today, said that brother Yasir 'Arafat received the message during a meeting last night with Gennadiy Tarasov, aide to the Soviet foreign minister for Middle East affairs [title as heard], who is currently visiting Tunis.

The agency reported that Brother Yasir 'Arafat explained the Palestine question and Middle East developments to the Soviet official.

'Official' Statement on 'Fabricated' Leaflets

JN2007191489 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Statement by an "official Palestinian source"; date, place not given]

[Text] The Zionist occupation forces continue their familiar psychological warfare tactics against the masses of the blessed popular intifadah [uprising] in the occupied homeland. Accordingly, the Zionist secret service continues to fabricate statements under various names, trying to foment sedition, divisions, and to raise doubts about nationalist figures. As a part of this, a suspect statement fabricated by the Zionist secret service was distributed recently attacking brother struggler Dr Sari Nusaybah, brother Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, and other nationalist figures.

Our masses, who have been waging their brave, blessed intifadah for 20 months, are aware enough to defeat this dirty psychological warfare, which reflects the occupationists' bankruptcy in the face of our people's strong national unity and the intifadah which will grow until freedom and independence.

PLO Spokesman on Fabrications

JN2007205889 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1826 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] PLO Official spokesman Brother Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman has announced that the meetings between nationalist Palestinian figures inside the occupied territories of the state of Palestine with Israeli officials take place with PLO consent.

Brother Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman denied the allegations made by the enemy government of Yitzhaq Shamir regarding the existence of any threats against the nationalist Palestinian figures of the occupied territories who hold meetings with some Israeli officials there at their own request or at the request of the Zionist military governor. Brother Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman said that all of these meetings take place with the knowledge and approval of the PLO. He added that the figures who hold contacts send detailed reports on the results of their meetings.

Brother Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman went on to say that the forged statement containing distortions about some nationalist Palestinian figures is like the fabricated statements issued during the past few weeks—the statements

distributed by Israeli intelligence to confuse our Palestinian people and distort the image of the nationalist Palestinian strugglers who are determined to continue the intifadah [uprising] until the Israeli occupation is defeated once and for all.

More on PLO Accusations

JN1907145689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] In Tunis today, the PLO said that leaflets distributed in the occupied territories, which contained threats against some national Palestinian figures, were forged and fabricated by the Israeli intelligence services.

Leaflets signed by the Administration of the Popular Army of Palestine [idarat al-jaysh al-sha'bi li-filastin] were distributed in the West Bank, accusing three Palestinian notables—Sari Nusaybah, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, and Radwan Abu-'Ayyash—of treason and collaboration with the Israeli authorities because of their meeting with Israeli officials. A PLO spokesman stressed that these meetings were approved by the PLO leadership and reports on them were submitted to the PLO by the notables in question.

PLO Denies Permission Given for Meetings

JN2007184389 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] The PLO said today that neither it, nor the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [uprising] has given the green light to Palestinian personalities in the occupied territories to meet with Yitzhaq Shamir.

Jamil Hilal, director of the PLO Information Department, said that not a single Palestinian personality has met with Shamir. He added: However, Shamir can summon any Palestinian inhabitant he wants since his army occupies the Palestinian territories.

The Palestinian official explained that the PLO's policy is that Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip should not meet with Israeli officials unless they are summoned. He added: However, the PLO allows them the freedom to meet with Israelis from outside the government if the Unified National Leadership believes that these meetings may broaden the peace camp in Israel without threatening the unity of the Palestinian Movement.

Abu-Iyad: 'Vicious Circle' in Talks With U.S.

PM2007131289 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 18-24 Jul 89 p 11

[Telephone interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Iyad, in Tunis by Salih Qallab; date not given]

[Text] [Qallab] Statements on the real Palestinian position on the dialogue with the Americans sometimes seem contradictory.

[Khalaf] There are no conflicting Palestinian statements, and there is maximum coordination on such matters. As regards the dialogue, it is still moving in a vicious circle. There has been no serious development for the past 7 months. The discussions are still about elections and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan. Shamir himself has torpedoed his own plan; the Israeli Labor Party, whose position is not very different from the Likud's, has taken a stand regarding the recent Likud decisions; and the United States insists on rescuing Shamir and tries to defend his position by saying that what happened is a party affair, not a government position.

[Qallab] If the dialogue is a vicious circle, why continue with it?

[Khalaf] There is a difference between differences of opinion and continuing the dialogue. We disagree with many states on many things but we maintain our dialogue with them.

[Qallab] Does that mean that the dialogue will continue despite everything?

[Khalaf] The dialogue is continuing and it would be wrong to consider stopping it, but that does not prevent telling the truth and saying that it is still static and has made no real progress.

[Qallab] I conclude from this that you are engaged in a dialogue for the sake of dialogue. Is that not so?

[Khalaf] There is a difference between disagreement and continuing the dialogue. We disagree with Britain on many issues but does that mean that we should stop our dialogue with it? We disagreed with France on many issues but we did not stop our dialogue, and the results have been encouraging and positive and Paris has become one of the foremost capitals supporting our cause.

[Qallab] Could the negotiations with the Americans be said to be part of indirect negotiations with the Israelis?

[Khalaf] Yes, in practical terms there are indirect negotiations with the Israelis, because when the Americans say that the Israelis want one thing or that they reject another, they are actually expressing the Israeli Government's views. We know that the two consult on everything.

[Qallab] There are fears of a U.S.-Soviet agreement on the Israeli plan. Are such fears justified?

[Khalaf] No, the Soviets differ with the Americans on this matter. We have seen the minutes of their recent meetings at the expert level, and have verified this. The Soviet Union says "yes" to elections provided they are part of a comprehensive plan for the settlement of the Middle East question. The Soviets also insist on an international conference and see it as the best way of

establishing peace. Furthermore, they insist on Security Council discussion and approval of elections. They are now discussing this point with the Americans.

[Qallab] What about the Europeans?

[Khalaf] The European stances have developed considerably. There is a marked difference between the Venice declaration and the recent Madrid declaration which, in addition to self-determination, stressed the need for PLO participation in the peace process and also indirectly criticized Shamir's plan.

[Qallab] Was your meeting with the U.S. ambassador in Tunis a coincidence or was it arranged?

[Khalaf] There was prior preparation. The Egyptian ambassador in Tunis arranged two meetings between me and the U.S. ambassador.

[Qallab] Did you discuss issues other than those raised in the closed meetings between the Palestinian and U.S. delegations?

[Khalaf] No, we only discussed the same things, focusing on the various sides' positions on elections and Shamir's plan.

[Qallab] Did Egyptian Minister of State Butrus Ghali consult you before his recent visit to Israel?

[Khalaf] He did not consult us before leaving. He announced that the purpose of the visit was mediation. Anyway, that mediation has failed.

[Qallab] It has been reported that the Egyptians raised 10 points in the form of questions about the Shamir plan. Did they consult you on that?

[Khalaf] We only knew of these points from the press.

[Qallab] What do you think of them?

[Khalaf] We will only give our opinion after we have met with our Egyptian brothers and discussed these points with them.

Fatah General Congress Slated 'After 28 Jul'

JN1907203889 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 18 Jul 89 p 19

[Text] London, AL-QABAS—A well-informed Palestinian source has stated that the Fatah Movement general congress will be held after 28 July. It will discuss the political situation and organizational structure and will take decisions pertaining to these issues.

Concerning the political position, during the congress they will affirm the peaceful political course which the PLO has been following since the convention of the Palestine National Council last year in Algiers. A follow-up committee consisting of Fatah officials will be formed to monitor activities.

On the organizational side, the names, especially new ones, were agreed on recently, particularly after the leading meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Salah Khalaf, where the two leaders reached an understanding over solving some basic problems.

The Palestinian official said news reports about changing Fatah to a political party is nowhere near the truth. He affirmed that Fatah will remain as it is until the state is established. Afterwards, anything could happen.

As to where the congress will be held, the source affirmed that security reasons dictate that we do not hold the congress in Tunis. Algiers or Baghdad are the venues nominated to host the conferees. The final decision will be taken 48 hours before the appointed time.

Algeria

National Assembly Adopts Electoral Law

LD2007145189 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] [The most important thing] in legislative life is the electoral law, which a lot of people have eagerly been looking forward to because of its importance in political life. Following examination and amendments, the bill is at this very moment being put to the deputies for their vote. Our colleague Ahmed Madache followed some of the voting and files this report for us:

[Madache] The draft electoral law is the second most important draft law in the country's new democratic march, the first being the law on political associations. The deputies are at this very moment casting their vote on this law, which was very widely discussed during the spring session, at this emergency session.

The clauses of this law lay down the new rules of the electoral system—whether at the local or the national level—and how to exercise the right to vote, which is also a duty within the framework of the political system.

The importance of the draft law in entrenching democracy is one reason which led to the postponement of the voting on it until this session, as well as to give the legislative body an opportunity to amend it to reflect the deputies' opinions put forward during the general discussions. These opinions were focused, according to the amendments which were contained in the complementary reports drawn by the Legal and Administrative Committee with the government's participation, on the following aspects: the voting method, boundaries, percentage of popular representation, election campaigns, voting by proxy, how to supervise the elections in addition to opinions on how to appeal, the [status] of independent candidates, and how to replace a deputy.

As far as the electoral district is concerned, it was finally agreed this evening that it should be defined by law and in accordance with the deputies' amendments instead of the [Legal and Administrative] Committee's opinion, which is to have the administration define the boundaries of the electoral districts. The outcome of the vote was 104 in favor of the deputies' amendment and 92 votes in favor of the committee's proposal.

As far as the method of voting is concerned, it has finally been agreed—taking into account both the committee's proposal and the deputies' amendments—that it should be by majority vote in the first round of elected municipal councils; the distribution of seats will be in accordance with the percentages gained, which should be not less than 10 percent of the vote, for 5 years. There was also a compromise reflecting the committee's proposal and the deputies' amendments on the minimum number of seats at the level of the municipal councils by increasing it to 7 seats to a municipality with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants in order to achieve just representation for the population.

As far as the wilayas [governorates] are concerned, the representation should be not fewer than 22 members or more than 35 members—representation which should take into account the population density—for 5 years.

As for the election method for the National People's Assembly, it was agreed—after the amendments were read out and passed—to adopt the method of proportional voting in the first round; preference will, however, be given to the majority. [sentence as heard] The term will be for 5 years. The requirements needed by any candidate for the National People's Assembly were also defined.

The committee also shared the deputies' concern on how to supervise the voting in order to guarantee more credibility for the voting process. Given the differences over how a deputy should be replaced, the committee adopted the opinion calling for partial [as heard] elections. The voting on the draft electoral law was still continuing when this report was filed.

I have just been told that the National People's Assembly has adopted the whole draft of the electoral law.

FLN Provides Guidance to 2 Newspapers

LD1907105789 Algiers APS in English 1017 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Algiers, 19 July (APS)—In the frame of the implementation of the decision concerning the orientation of the editorial staff of the dailies "EL MOUDJAHID" and "AL-SHA'B" by the National Liberation Front [FLN] Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the FLN CC [Central Committee] addressed yesterday to general directors of the two press entreprises a note indicating the main principles which must be at the (?base of) the informative action of the two papers.

The note defined the main mission assumed by the FLN during this step and which are focused on three axes.

—To back up the economic and political reforms adopted by the sixth congress.

—To help the FLN carry on its mission of preservation of national independence and development in the frame of the National Charter.

—To improve the people's potentialities and ensure the [words indistinct] mobilization to face the serious challenges facing the country.

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Israeli Delegation 19 Jul

NC1907150789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received Israeli Interior Minister Arye Der'i and Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, spiritual leader of Sephardic Jews in Israel. The meeting was attended by Egypt's Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni and Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Shim'on Shamir.

Israelis End Visit, Depart

NC2007084989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2227 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Interior Minister Arye Der'i and Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, spiritual leader of Sephardic Jews in Israel, and the delegation accompanying them left Cairo tonight following a 2-day visit to Egypt during which they met with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

'Abd-al-Majid Interviewed

JN1907110989 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0940 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Interview with 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by an unidentified correspondent in Cairo, on the "With the Midday Events" program; date not given]

[Correspondent] Your Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister, good evening.

['Abd-al-Majid] Good evening.

[Correspondent] How do you assess your meeting with [Israeli] Interior Minister Der'i and Rabbi 'Ovadaya Yosef?

['Abd-al-Majid] In fact, it was a very good meeting. I listened carefully to Rabbi 'Ovadaya Yosef and Minister Der'i. I can say that we participate in, support, and encourage trends toward peace. I also would like to stress that the overwhelming majority of the Israeli people and the Arab and Palestinian brothers call for peace trends, because they are in the interests of everyone. The state that benefits most from peace is Israel.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that this meeting will give momentum to the peace process, as the two men represent a party with considerable political weight in Israel?

['Abd-al-Majid] Yes, I believe this, and I also believe that there are peace trends. We believe that the majority of the Israeli people seek peace. Therefore, this visit and this meeting are part of this trend. I do not say that peace is easy to achieve. Peace requires sacrifices, because peace is dear to all of us. Peace is more difficult than war, force, or violence. War, force, or violence can be used for a limited period, but will not give results. The things that lead to positive results are peaceful coexistence, understanding, and cooperation among nations. My conversation with Rabbi 'Ovadaya Yosef today indicates that a very large sector of the Israeli people wants to live in peace with the Palestinian brothers.

[Correspondent] It is known that it is his excellency the president who invited Minister Der'i and Rabbi 'Ovadaya Yosef, who are members of the SHAS Movement [Torah Observing Sephardim]. Does Egypt intend to invite other leaders from other parties?

['Abd-al-Majid] We welcome such meetings, and we also welcome exchanges of views with all trends in Israel. In fact, dialogue is necessary. Dialogue should not frighten anyone. Today, when we talk to each other, we understand each other, and each side will try to seek the general welfare which is aimed, as I said, at achieving peace and stability in the region. Egypt is eager to achieve this. The word peace was the first word pronounced by the president at the Casablanca summit when Egypt rerturned to the Arab nation or when the Arab nation returned to Egypt.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister, how does Egypt view the Israeli peace initiative following the amendments by the Likud center?

['Abd-al-Majid] These amendments have further complicated the situation, because they include new conditions in the original initiative, which had allowed us to talk about matters pertaining to the elections, the final settlement, and the way the elections were to be held. These issues were discussed and were encouraging. But we were surprised when some elements in Likud set four conditions. We were told that these conditions have not changed anything in the original one. Then why were they set? This and other questions are being posed and are also legitimate. Therefore, we cannot ask people not to pose such questions about why these four conditions were set.

Mosad Network Reportedly Uncovered in Cairo

NC2007165189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] The Cairo newspaper AL-WAFD has reported that Egyptian security forces recently uncovered an espionage network operating on behalf of Mosad, the Israeli intelligence service. The paper added that the network's members admitted spying for Mosad and said that they had been gathering information about Egyptian military activity.

Mubarak, Al-Qadhdhafi To Meet in Addis Ababa
JN2007161089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 Jul 89 p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Presidents Husni Mubarak and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi are expected to hold a meeting in the Ethiopian capital next week during the OAU meeting. During their meetings in Addis Ababa, the two presidents will continue to discuss the future of Egyptian-Libyan relations and ways to reinforce them in the interest of the two peoples. The two leaders will also exchange opinions on the latest developments in the Palestine question and the current situation in the Arabian Gulf.

Diplomatic sources in Cairo affirmed that during the Mubarak-Al-Qadhdhafi summit the two leaders will announce the date of restoring full diplomatic relations between Cairo and Tripoli and exchanging ambassadors between the two countries. The talks will also deal with the problems in Africa, supporting the African liberation movements, and the situation in Sudan and the Horn of Africa.

During the last few weeks, a large number of Egyptians were attracted to work in Libya in the wake of Al-Qadhdhafi's announcement of his plan to replace foreign workers with Egyptian workers, to treat the Egyptian workers on an equal footing with Libyan workers in terms of their rights, and to grant them the right to participate in Libyan political life.

AL-WAFD learned that the future will see an exchange of economic delegations to discuss the resumption of economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Mubarak Cited on Peace, Israeli Initiative
NC2007131589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has reasserted Egypt's desire for peace. He said that if Israel really wants peace, it must clarify certain points in its initiative. In a statement to newsmen following a graduation ceremony of a new group from the Military College today, President Mubarak said that there is no longer anyone against peace. All parties really want peace, but at the same time we want to preserve rights.

President Mubarak pointed out that no one rejects the Israeli initiative but certain points must be clarified to the Palestinians.

On the African mini-summit scheduled to convene in Mali today regarding the Chadian-Libyan dispute, President Mubarak expressed his hope that this dispute will be resolved and that agreements for both parties will be fair. He stressed the need for all parties to live in harmony instead of fighting.

Asked about Morocco's return to the Organization of African Unity, (OAU) President Mubarak said that this issue is left to the OAU summit. Following the graduation ceremony, Mubarak inspected an exhibition of certain activities of the Military College students' Scientific Society.

Mubarak Attends Opening of NDP Congress 20 Jul
NC2007132589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak this morning attended the opening session of the National Democratic Party [NDP] Fifth General Congress at Cairo University. Dr Yusuf Wali, NDP secretary general, delivered a speech in which he spoke about the 1952 July revolution and the changes made since the convening of the NDP's fourth congress. He noted the liberation of all Egyptian territory with the return of Tabah, Egypt's return to the Arab League during the Casablanca Arab summit, which was a demonstration of love and appreciation for Egypt, and the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council.

Wali said that under the leadership of President Mubarak, Egypt has won international esteem. The African countries concurred on nominating President Mubarak to chair the Organization of African Unity.

Dr Wali then reviewed the most outstanding achievements of the past period. He noted the economic problem which has afflicted Egypt for dozens of years. He said that President Mubarak chose radical solutions and the need to establish the infrastructure on which all development projects depend to ensure the future of Egyptian youths. [passage omitted]

Paper Cited on Sharon's Call To Kill 'Arafat
NC2007094389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0012 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul [dateline as received] (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has described the statement by Israeli Trade and Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon, in which he called for killing Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, a new phenomenon, unprecedented in the history of the international community and representing a serious precedent that might encourage other countries to adopt similar positions. The paper points out that this will return the world to the the law of the jungle and threatens all rules of conduct that human civilization has established.

In an editorial appearing in Thursday's edition, the paper notes that if a PLO official had called for the physical liquidation of the Israeli minister, Israel and its allies in the U.S. Congress and in Zionist organizations would have raised an uproar and clamored for international public opinion to witness the terrorist behavior of which they accuse the Palestinians.

The paper adds that when such a bizarre call comes from an official in a state that claims to be an oasis of liberty and democracy in the Middle East, the matter passes unnoticed and no one urges that the one who made this call—a flagrant incitement to murder—be put on trial.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR says that the Israeli minister who regards himself and his government as being above the law has himself offered to the world the opportunity to learn clearly from where comes the terrorism of which Yitzhaq Shamir accuses the PLO and its struggler leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Paper on Calls To End U.S.-PLO Dialogue

NC2107051289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2258 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has criticized the stands of those Americans, both members of Congress or officials in U.S. President George Bush's administration, who are trying to end the dialogue between the PLO and the United States or who declare their support for the Israeli rejection of an independent Palestinian state in the occupied territories.

In an editorial in Friday's edition, the paper says that these Americans are fooling themselves if they imagine for one moment that such stands can lead to any kind of peace in the Middle East, a region in which the United States has enormous interests and which needs calm and stability in order to prosper.

The paper adds that these people must ask themselves how peace and quiet can be restored to a region where a large number of Palestinians live without a homeland or hope of a free life, which they, like people in any other area in the world, seek.

AL-AKHBAR says in conclusion that peace can only be established if it is based on justice and respect for people's rights and for the principles of international legitimacy. It says that time will prove to such misguided and deceived people the truth of this obvious fact that requires no unusual intelligence or political savvy.

'Provisional' Reform Agreement Reached With IMF

JN2007172889 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] An official economic source has stated that a provisional agreement has been reached with the IMF on the key elements of gradual economic reform in accordance with the Egyptian view. The agreement was reached during talks held recently with an IMF delegation in Cairo.

The source added that the IMF delegation is now discussing with the IMF Executive Council the implementation of this agreement and preparing the final formula of the agreement.

An AL-AHRAM correspondent learned that the IMF and Egypt are contacting creditors to agree on closing the gap in the balance of payments. Once these contacts have ended, Egypt and the IMF will sign the final agreement in accordance with which the second rescheduling of the Egyptian debts will be accomplished. The agreement will allow Egypt to go to the Paris Club to obtain the necessary solutions to the Egyptian debt problem.

In addition, AL-AHRAM learned that a World Bank delegation will arrive in Cairo in the next few weeks to hold talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and other officials on the draft agreement with the World Bank for the next stage in light of the steps taken to implement President Husni Mubarak's economic reform policy.

The prime minister and members of the economic group will discuss with the World Bank delegation ways to find resources to close the financing gap whether this financing comes directly or through some member states of the Bank.

The coming talks with the World Bank delegation complete the talks held recently with the IMF delegation in Cairo. The IMF delegation praised the steps taken by Egypt in the field of economic reform.

Libya

Tunisia's Baccouche Visits Banghazi 17-19 Jul

Comments on Visit

LD1807173589 Tripoli JANA in English 1450 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Al-Bayan al-Awal, Nasser [July] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr. Hedi Baccouche, the premier of sisterly Tunisia, arrived in the city of al-Bayan al-Awal Banghazi—yesterday afternoon.

He was officially received by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi. Also participating in this welcome to the Tunisian premier and his accompanying delegation were the secretary and members of the General People's Committee, the secretary of the People's Congress, the People's Committee of Benghazi Municipality and a number of the [word indistinct] in the Libyan Arab Armed Forces.

After playing the two national anthems of the two countries, the Tunisian premier accompanied by Staff Major Jallud inspected the guards of honor.

The premier's accompanying delegation comprises Messrs. Escheikh, the foreign minister, Neffati, the minister of interior, Al-Saghir [name as received], the political adviser to [word indistinct], Bin Sultan [name as received], the press adviser to the premier and Bin Oun [name as received], director of ceremonies.

Commenting to JANA, Mr. Baccouche has relayed the greetings and best wishes of the Tunisian President Ben Ali to the leader of the Revolution and the Libyan Arab People.

Mr. Baccouche has expressed his appreciation on the continuing work undertaken by Great al-Jamahiriyah to advance the status of the Arab nation. He adds that this visit comes within the purview of the concentrated contacts conducted by the Supreme Committee assigned the job of following up the work of the committees and the action groups.

He goes on to say that the task of this committee is to deliberate upon the recommendations of these committees and to overcome the snags and difficulties involved reconfirming that this action undertaken by this committee represents a firm and genuine [word indistinct] achieving our aspirations for our nation in [word indistinct] of solidarity, integration and unity through which we face up to the challenges facing our countries and the Arab homeland.

Jallud Addresses Delegation

LD1807232589 Tripoli JANA in English 1756 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Al-Bayan al-Awal, Nasser [July] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The 4th round of sessions of the Supreme Follow-up Committee of Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia began this morning at al-Bayan al-Awal city of Banghazi.

The opening session was attended by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, the secretary of the General People's Committee and Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche of sisterly Tunisia.

Also attending were: Abdelhamid Escheikh the minister of foreign affairs in Tunisia, Chadli Nefati, the minister of the interior, the Tunisian general envoy to Great Jamahiriyah, the general envoy of Great Jamahiriyah to Tunisia and a number of experts and specialists from both sisterly countries.

Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud gave a speech in which he said: "I feel happiness and vitality when we meet to accomplish our inner soul and existance and feel that we have put our feet on the right track to make history and to contribute in building a nation. We never doubted the vitality of our people in Tunisia and the vitality of freedom fighters. We are informed about the history of struggles in sisterly Tunsia in the field of [word indistinct] and the ideological field."

Staff Major Jallud added: "We in Great Jamahiriyah when we see a political power or a political regime ascends to the level of the nation aspirations and touches the goal that abolishes the weakness of the nation and presents the alternative in an historic deed, take pride in it because matters of unity, liberation, socialism and freedom are the foundation stone in the rebuilding of the nation and reorganization of its life once more. He asserted that the hisoric event that took place in November in sisterly Tunisia is contributing in this historic deed. "Today we meet in the Supreme Follow-up Committee and we are more confident and insistent that we are walking with firm steps and are going to share responsibility in front of Allah and the history and in front of our Arab nation we are more determined and confident in our work and in ourselves."

He pointed out that the recent meeting in Tunis was characterized by vitality, clearness and possession. He said, "We want to work as a single team for a single cause and to accomplish the historical task which is honour and a medal of responsibility."

Baccouche Signs Protocol

LD2007010189 Tripoli JANA in English 1805 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Al-Bayan al-Awal, Nasser [July] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche of sisterly Tunisia and his accompanying delegation paid a visit at noon today, accompanied by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi to the first forum at Qar Younis camp in al-Bayan al-Awal city where he inspected the (?forum) within which the Great al-Fatah revolution was launched.

Prime Minister Baccouche of sisterly Tunisia wrote a note in the first forum's visitor's book saluting with admiration leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and his colleagues in this room "which witnessed the start of Libyan [word indistinct] dreams which for 20 years transmit with determination and firmness into reality, in Libya and in all countries freedom, justice, and dignity."

[Words indistinct] this morning al-Bayan al-Awal city of [word indistinct] signing took place on a protocol meeting of the 4th session of the supreme follow-up committee between Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia.

The protocol was signed by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud and Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche of sisterly Tunisia.

Attending the signing ceremony were Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, the secretary of the General People' Committee, Abdelhamid Escheikh, the Tunisian minister of foreign affairs, Chadli Neffati, the interior minister, the general envoy of sisterly Tunisia to Great Jamahiriyah, the general envoy of Great Jamahiriyah to Tunisia, and a number of experts and specialists from both sisterly countries.

Premier Departs for Home

LD2007011289 Tripoli JANA in English 1806 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Al-Bayan al-Awal, Nasser [July] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche of sisterly Tunisia and his accompanying delegation left al-Bayan al-Awal city of Banghazi this (?afternoon after) attending the sessions of the [word indistinct] round of the Supreme Follow-up Committee between Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia.

An official farewell ceremony was held [words indistinct] International Airport by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi and the secretary of the General People's Committee.

The band played Allah-u Akbar [words indistinct] the Tunisian national anthem. After [words indistinct] Minister Hedi Baccouche accompanied by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud inspected the guard of honor which lined up to salute it.

(?In a statement to JANA's envoy), Prime Minister Baccouche expressed pride and appreciation for the results reached at the 4th session meetings of the Supreme Follow-up Committee between Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia.

He said: "This session constituted (?an) important step on (?the road) of probing all means to arrive [words indistinct] what unity steps had been agreed upon by the two sisterly countries."

"The negotiations were serious and truthful, which made them a big boost that would acomplish the aspirations of the one Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia."

Concluding his statement, sisterly Tunisia's prime minister expressed his and his accompanying delegation's happiness to [words indistinct] and the extreme hospitality [words indistinct]. He said: "During my stay in Great Jamahiriyah, I felt as if I were in Tunisia."

Sudan

Al-Bashir To Attend OAU Summit in Ethiopia

EA1907214389 Khartoum SUNA in French 1510 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Jul (SUNA)—A senior Sudanese delegation led by General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] for National Salvation, will attend the OAU summit conference, which will be held in Addis Ababa from 24 to 26 July.

Economic problems, the external debt problem of African countries, and questions relating to the southern Africa will certainly feature in the discussions of the conference, together with the election of the new OAU chairman.

Apart from the summit, the RCC chairman will brief African heads of state on the policies of the national salvation revolution.

Plans To Meet With Mengistu

EA2007195989 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Jul (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] for National Salvation, has received a verbal message from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam on peace efforts in the region. The message was delivered by the Ethiopian ambassador in Khartoum the day before yesterday, during his meeting with Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the RCC.

The latter stressed that there had been positive developments since the delivery of Lt Gen al-Bashir recent letter to John Garang. He said the leaders of the movement have praised the letter and expressed hope that peace efforts in the region would be boosted. The member of the RCC said preparations were currently being made for a meeting between Lt Gen al-Bashir and the Ethiopian president during the African summit in Addis Ababa between 24 and 26 July. He said developments affecting the situation and peace efforts in the region would be discussed during that meeting. He added that there had been positive developments on the issue of peace in the region, and these would soon be revealed.

Saudi Arabia

'Condemnation' of Bulgarian Policy Toward Turks

LD2107090789 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0650 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Riyadh, 21 Jul (SPA)—The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expresses its strong condemnation and denunciation of the irresponsible policy on which the Bulgarian authorities have embarked and are pursuing against the Muslim Turkish minorities.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stresses its support for the just and reasonable position followed by the Turkish Republic, which seeks official negotiations between the two countries in this connection. This is stated in an official press release from the Foreign Ministry today. Here is the full text:

Following the policy of the government of the custodian of two holy mosques, and arising from its continuing concern with regard to monitoring the situation of Muslims, seeking reassurance over the state of Muslim minorities living in other societies throughout the world and championing their rights, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been following and observing with extreme anxiety the oppressive measures and violation of religious freedoms that are being pursued by the Bulgarian authorities vis-a-vis the Muslim Turkish minority in recent years.

The resulting deterioration of their daily lives and the serious threat facing them, their convictions, and possessions through suppressive and racist measures are in conflict with the most basic human rights and international charters.

The outcome of the present situation characterized by the uprooting of tens of thousands of these Muslim minorities, their tragic mass deportation from their homeland across the Turkish border. [sentence as received]

With regard to these practices, which have aroused the concern of the governments and the peoples of the Islamic nation and which are provocative, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expresses its strong denunciation and condemnation of such an irresponsible policy and reaffirms the importance of Islamic solidarity to confront such an unjust position and the need to work in order to persuade the Bulgarian Government to adhere to the requirements to live together in the international community and of the need to respect the basic human rights of the Muslim Turkish minority.

The Government of Saudi Arabia praises and supports the Turkish Government's just position of striving to enter into official bilateral negotiations so that the Muslims' voluntary immigration might be organized within the framework of an agreement which defines the commitments and rights of all parties and which guarantees the Muslim minority's self-interests.

United Arab Emirates

RCC Member on Revolution's Goal, Garang

JN1707155789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1435 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Jul (WAKH)—A ranking Sudanese official said that the main goal of the revolution in Sudan was to save the country from the deteriorating situation in the country on both the political and economic levels.

Brigadier General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], clarified at a news conference in Abu Dhabi today that the RCC members in Sudan feared that the country would be transformed into another Lebanon. Therefore, the primary revolutionary goal of the new system is to overcome the stages of destruction, death, insecurity, corruption, and desperation of the previous period.

He affirmed that the revolution in Sudan is white and in which not a single drop of blood will be shed. Issues are stable now and hopes are high to realize prosperity for the Sudanese people.

He pointed out that the basic goal of his visit to the United Arab Emirates is to explain the recent events in his country. The tour will also include Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, and Iraq.

Brig Gen al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih affirmed that negotiations between the new government and the former Sudanese parties are impossible. He indicated that those now detained are awaiting trial after legal consultations. If the crime committed is punishable by death, this will be applied to them.

Brig Gen al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih was asked about the fate of former President Ja'far Numayri and the officials who were with him and who were sentenced. He said that they will stay as they are so long as legal circumstances for that permit.

He pointed out that there is no obstacle to Numayri's return to Sudan on condition that he be tried to check whether there is anything against him.

He refused to delve into the topic of applying the Islamic shari'a in Sudan. He said this subject had been raised in [words indistinct] ideas and opinion were not crystallized. Therefore, political strife evolved.

On the RCC's stand on the situation in southern Sudan and the John Garang movement, Brig Gen al-Zubayr said that the council is very concerned about realizing peace in the south without any preconditions. He added that he expected to get a positive response from John Garang on the message sent by the council to him via Ethiopia.

He pointed out that the council has taken many steps to establish peace in the south, including granting general amnesty to all those who carried weapons and declaring a truce, which ends on 4 August.

Uninhabited Buffer Zone To Reach Syrian Border

JN2107093889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Hasan 'Ali, official in charge of the northern Iraq organization office of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has stated that the uninhabited buffer zone, which Iraq has started to establish along its borders with Iran and Turkey, will also extend to the border with Syria.

Hasan 'Ali was speaking to those reporters who the Iraqi Government has invited to visit cities built to house Kurds who were moved from their original homes. The Iraqi offic[illegible] said the decision is aimed at strengthening Iraqi border security in view of the Iranian infiltration of the borders with the help of the Kurds throughout the war years.

Mas'ud Barzani, Kurdish Democratic Party leader, had accused Iraq of destroying the Kurdistan villages and rehousing 300,000 Kurds in camps and towns outside the traditional Kurdish areas.

Saddam Addresses Revolution Ceremony Participants

JN1707162789 Baghdad INA in English 1445 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July, INA—President Saddam Husayn received today heads and members of sisterly and friendly countries' delegations participating in celebrations of Iraq on the 21st anniversary of July 17 revolution.

While addressing them, the president said "The revolution takes its meaning from the syllabuses which you see in the life of the Iraqis now in comparison with they were 21 years before the most important of that is the new man who is always heading for renewal and ascension on the path of work and construction for goodness and peace". [sentence as received]

The president added "The picture is more accurately clear when we recall that nearly half of these 21 years were spent in fighting, then when we consider the successes achieved by the Iraqi people we look at them as a whole according to their human meaning as related to community that work for peace, love, work and flourishment on the entire world and not merely gains for the Iraqis or the Arabs alone."

President Saddam Husayn went on saying "An entire year between March 1974 and March 1975 was spent in fighting in the north of Iraq and against the army of the shah, and when the war broke out between the Arabs and Israel, the Iraqi Armed Forces participated on both Syrian (?and Egyptian) fronts with the capacity permitted them by the circumstances and according to our capabilities at that time, then afterwards eight years of continuous war with Iran which was the period extending between September 4, 1980 until the actual ceasefire on August 8, 1988".

The meeting was attended by Members of the Revolution Command Council Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy premier, Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, vice-president, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information. It was [words indistinct] ambassadors of the countries participating in the celebrations.

Foreign Officials Visit for Anniversary Events

Saddam Receives Soviet Official

JN1707144089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1142 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received here today Igor Belousov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. Belousov conveyed to his excellency a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev containing congratulations on the 21st anniversary of the 17 July revolution as well as the USSR's assertion on continuing and developing the relations of friendship and broad cooperation between the two friendly countries.

The talks dealt with horizons of bilateral cooperation in the coming stage in a number of important fields. The talks also dealt with the current situation in the region and the necessary requirements to achieve security and stability in the region. At the top of these requirements is the achievement of a comprehensive and lasting peace between Iraq and Iran on firm bases.

President Saddam Husayn asked Belousov to convey his heartfelt greetings to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev as well as his wishes of continuous progress for the USSR.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Husayn Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization; and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

Industry Minister Meets Soviets

JN1707193389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jul (INA)—Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, received here tonight Igor Belousov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, they discussed horizons of cooperation between the two countries in the field of military and civil industries. Thay also stressed the joint desire to develop and improve formulas of cooperation and to enter into new, advanced industrial fields.

Ramadan Receives CSSR Minister

JN1707165789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1612 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jul (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Frantisek Ondrich, CSSR minister-chairman of the People's Control Commission, and the accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that the forthcoming phase will witness great development in Iraqi-CSSR relations and an increase in the fields of cooperation in a manner that will benefit the interests of the peoples of the two friendly countries.

Frantisek expressed admiration for the progress and prosperity achieved by Iraq and stressed the CSSR leadership's interest in developing fields of cooperation between the two countries.

Ramadan Receives GDR Minister

JN1707163189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1607 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jul (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Hans Joachim Heusinger, GDR Council of Ministers deputy chairman and minister of justice, and the accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, they discussed means to broaden fields of cooperation between Iraq and the GDR.

Ramadan, Yugoslav Minister Confer

JN2007053889 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 19, INA—Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier met here today with the Yugoslav federal minister of development, head of the Yugoslav side to the Iraqi-Yugoslav Joint Committee Bozidar Marendic.

During the meeting, they reviewed the march of cooperation between Iraq and Yugoslavia and expressed deep satisfaction over the advanced level the relations of the two countries had reached and continuity of their development in all fields.

Mr. Ramadan said that development of the Iraqi-Yugoslav relations would [word indistinct] on development of relations among the non-aligned states due to the active and important role played by Iraq and Yugoslavia in supporting the non-alignment Movement.

New horizons for enhancing the process of cooperation between the two friendly countries were discussed during the meeting that was attended by Mr Samal Faraj the minister of planning, the head of the Iraqi side in the Iraqi-Yugoslav Joint Committee.

Saddam Receives ACC Delegations

JN1707202189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1822 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 17 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn this evening received separately heads of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] countries' delegations, which are currently visiting Iraq to take part in the celebrations of the 21st anniversary of the 17-30 July revolution. [passage omitted]

During the meetings, discussions revolved around the means to develop the ACC's march, the formulas to continue the ACC's work, and implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Baghdad and Alexandria summits of the ACC countries.

Saddam Receives Al-Qadhdhafi's Son

JN1707192789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1912 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received Sayf al-Islam, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's son, and the accompanying delegation on the occasion of their participation in the celebrations of the 21st commemoration of the glorious 17-30 July revolution.

Sayf al-Islam conveyed an oral message to President Saddam Husayn from Col al-Qadhdhafi dealing with bilateral relations between Iraq and Libya.

Saddam Meets PDRY Deputy Premier

JN1807162689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—At noon today, President Saddam Husayn received Salih Munassir al-Siyayli, deputy prime minister and interior minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], who is currently in Baghdad to attend the celebrations marking the anniversary of the 17-30 July glorious revolution.

The minister conveyed to the president the greetings of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, and the PDRY leadrship.

During the meeting, fraternal relations between the two countries and ways to promote them in all fields were discussed.

The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab.

Ramadan Receives PDRY Official

JN2007140889 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jul 20, INA—Member of the Revolution Command Council and First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan met here today with Mr Salih Munassar al-Siyayli deputy premier and interior minister of Democratic Yemen.

Mr. Ramadan expressed satisfaction over development of the relations between the two countries, confirming that the forthcoming stage would see large development in all areas in the manner meeting ambitions of leaderships and people of the two countries.

Deputy premier and interior minister of Democratic Yemen expressed his admiration and pleasure over development and progress achieved in Iraq, affirming that that was considered pride for all Arabs for it came in circumstances of defence of destiny.

He also confirmed that Iraq had become an exemplary experiment for the Arabs in defence and construction, and this experiment would be in service of the Arab countries.

Saddam Meets Ethiopians, Tunisians

JN1807114289 Baghdad INA in English 1120 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 18, INA—President Saddam Husayn today received here Mr. Fisseha Desta, Ethiopian vice president, now in Baghdad to participate in the celebrations marking the 21st anniversary of 17-30th July revolution.

During the audience, attended by Mr. Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf member of the Revolution Command [Council] and vice president, Mr. Desta conveyed a written message to Husayn from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam related to bilateral relations.

President Husayn asked Mr. Desta to convey his greetings and wishes for good health to President Mariam.

President Husayn today also received in audience Tunisian Minister of Defence Abdallah Kallel who is visiting Iraq to attend Iraq's celebrations of July revolution.

The Tunisian minister conveyed to President Husayn a verbal message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali related to means of promoting existing brotherly relations between the two countries in all fields and his personal and the Tunisian people's greetings and congratulations on the 21st anniversary of the July revolution.

Ramadan Meets Turkish Minister

JN1707162289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jul (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Ekrem Pakdemirli, Turkish minister of finance and customs.

During the meeting, they reviewed means to bolster relations between Iraq and Turkey and fields to broaden trade exchange between them.

Saddam Receives Brazilian Minister

JN1707173389 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn this evening received Lieutenant General Octavio Julio Moreira Lima, Brazil's minister of aeronautics.

During the meeting, Moreira Lima conveyed to his excellency a written message from Brazilian President Jose Sarney dealing with the existing relations between the two friendly countries and means to bolster them in all fields.

The message also includes the Brazilian president's congratulations on the 21st anniversary of the 17-30 July glorious revolution. The message expresses Brazil's desire to develop the strong relations of friendship between the two friendly countries and Brazil's solidarity with Iraq's people and government.

The president leader asked the Brazilian minister to convey his greetings to the Brazilian president. He also asked him to convey Iraq's desire to continue the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

It is worth mentioning that Moreira Lima is heading his country's delegation to our people's celebrations of the 21st anniversary of the 17-30 July glorious revolution.

The meeting was attended by Husayn Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization, and the Brazilian ambassador.

President Receives Cuban Official

JN2007052989 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 19, INA—President Saddam Husayn received here today visiting Cuban Communist Party's Politburo member and head of Foreign Relations Office Jorge Valdes.

During the audience, Mr. Valdes conveyed to President Husayn greetings and congratulations of Cuba's President Fidel Castro and people on the 21st anniversary of Iraq's 17-30 July 1968 revolution.

Ramadan Meets Nicaraguan Official

JN2007053589 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 19, INA—President Saddam Husayn received a message from President of Nicaragua Daneil Ortega. The message was delivered to Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier by the personal envoy of the Nicaraguan president, head of the Middle East Department at International Relations Section of the Sandinistan National Liberation Front.

The message expressed Nicaragua's desire of expanding and developing the existing relations with Iraq in different fields.

Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan asked the personal envoy of Nicaragua's president to convey greetings of President Saddam Husayn to President Ortega and Iraq's confirmation of developing its relation with Nicaragua.

Ramadan Receives Other Officials

JN1807180989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received a number of Iraq's guests attending the national celebrations marking the anniversary of the 17-30 July revolution.

He received Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Yemen Arab Republic. During the meeting, Ramadan expressed deep satisfaction with the development of bilateral relations thanks to the guidance and care of President Saddam Husayn and his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Dr al-Iryani expressed delight over joining the Iraqis in their celebrations of the 21st anniversary of the glorious July revolution.

The two officials reviewed preparations for the meetings of the ministerial committee of the Arab Cooperation Council prior to the council's summit due soon in Sanaa.

Earlier today, Ramadan received Maldivian Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel. They discussed ways to promote aspects of cooperation between the two friendly countries in all fields.

Ramadan also received Nguyen Khanh, vice chairman of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers and member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam. During the meeting, Nguyen Khanh conveyed to President Saddam Husayn the greetings of the Vietnamese president and the appreciation of the Vietnamese Government and people of Iraq's positions toward the issues of peace, security, and liberation. He stressed his country's desire to widen prospects of cooperation with Iraq. Ramadan conveyed through Nguyen Khanh the greetings of President Saddam Husayn to the Vietnamese president and stressed Iraq's intent to expand its relations with Vietnam.

Ramadan also received Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Stefan Andrei and the delegation accompanying him. During the meeting, Ramadan stressed that Iraqi-Romanian relations have witnessed progress over the past years and will witness broader cooperation in all fields in the future. The Romanian official stressed his country's desire to boost the relations of friendship and cooperation with Iraq in all fields.

Interior Minister Meets Counterparts

JN1707170389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jul (INA)—Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab met here today with Salim Masa'idah, Jordanian deputy prime minister and interior minister. During the meeting, they discussed fields of cooperation and coordination between the two countries' interior ministries.

Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab today held a series of separate meetings with Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen deputy prime minister and interior minister; Shaykh 'Ali Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini Interior Ministry under secretary; and Dr Lamin Kiti, Gambian interior minister. These meetings discussed aspects of cooperation and coordination between Iraq and these countries and means to improve them in the related fields.

South Asian Delegations Depart

JN2007062289 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad this afternoon after attending the glorious July festivities. [passage omitted]

Keshav Jong, member of Parliament and head of the Nepalese delegation, also left the country after attending the festivities. [passage omitted]

Ahmad Baqir Mohammad, member of Parliament and head of the Indian delegation, also left Baghdad. He said in a statement to INA that joining Iraq in its celebrations is simply an expression of the desire to deepen and boost the historical relations between Iraq and India.

More Delegations Leave Baghdad

JN1807195889

[Editorial Report] Baghdad INA in Arabic in its 0615-1807 GMT broadcast on 18 July reports the departure of foreign delegations that attended the Baghdad festivities on the 21st anniversary of the 17-30 July revolution. The

following, among others, are reported to have left: The Kuwaiti delegation headed by Nasir 'Abdallah, minister of state for housing affairs; the United Arab Emirates delegation headed by Shaykh Surur Ibn-Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, head of the presidency diwan [council]; the Qatari delegation headed by Khalid 'Abdallah, minister of public works; Frantisek Ondrich, CSSR minister-chairman of the People's Control Commission; Major Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane, permanent secretary of the Military Committee for National Salvation in Mauritania; Thaabe Letsie, foreign minister of Lesotho; Said Kafe, foreign minister of the Comoros Islands; the Egyptian delegation headed by Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; the Jordanian delegation headed by Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and minister of interior; the Omani delegation headed by Hamud Ibn-'Abdallah al-Harithi, minister of communications; the Tunisian delegation headed by Abdallah Kallel, minister of national defense; the Soviet delegation headed by Igor Belousov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; the GDR delegation headed by Hans Joachim Heusinger, Council of Ministers deputy chairman and minister of justice; Muhammad 'Ali Shummu, Sudanese information minister; and Lamin Kiti, Gambian interior minister.

Delegations' Departures Noted

JN2007053389 Baghdad INA in English 1440 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 19, INA—Arab and foreign delegations today left Baghdad after taking part in the festivals of the 21st anniversary of Iraq's 17-30 July 1968 revolution.

Leaving Baghdad were Guinea Bissau's Vice-President Iafai Camara, Turkey's Minister of Finance and Customs Ekrem Pakdemirli, Brazil's minister of aviation, Hungary's minister of environment Laszlo Marothy, Chile's Foreign Ministry Director General Joseph Manuel, Bulgarian Communist Party's Central Committee member Atanas Dimitrov, and Pakistan's Minister of Industry Ali Nawaz Shah.

'Confidants:' Shamir 'Determined' To Fire Sharon

TA2007120189 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jul 89 p 1

[Report by party affairs correspondent Ilan Shehori]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is determined to fire Minister Ari'el Sharon from the government and is now looking for the right time to take this drastic step. Yesterday evening, Shamir held consultations with several of his confidants—following the rancorous confrontation between the two men at the Likud ministers' meeting—and he may act on the matter at the next cabinet meeting at the beginning of next week.

Shamir has not held any contacts with Sharon for some time, and after the Likud Central Committee meeting in which Sharon criticized Shamir, he was given a clear message that any additional attacks could cost him his cabinet seat. Shamir's confidants claimed yesterday that the rift between them is complete.

It has been learned that last night, after the clash with Shamir, Sharon held a short meeting with Ministers David Levi and Yitzhaq Moda'i. The two ministers—who are scheduled to meet Sharon again this morning—promised to try to prevent Shamir from taking extreme steps. Several weeks ago, when Shamir was considering the dismissal of Minister Moda'i, it was Sharon and Levi who made it clear to Shamir that they would not allow Shamir to sack him.

In a talk with HA'ARETZ yesterday, Sharon refused to comment on the possibility that Shamir may throw him out of the cabinet. He would only say that yesterday's incident at the ministers meeting was a planned provocation by the prime minister designed to hurt him and a direct continuation of the daily taunts and injuries inflicted on him by Shamir. "Over the last few days I have not stopped counting these attacks in the form of media reports on the dismissal of cabinet ministers who fail to support the political initiative or point out its dangers.

Sharon said: "It is extremely grave that the prime minister is willing to reveal information to Israel's enemies and elements connected with terror and violence, while withholding this information from a Likud minister who has known and kept Israel's most guarded secrets for decades." [passage omitted]

Milo on Conflict

TA2007164089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] If Minister Sharon apologizes, his conflict with the prime minister will be over, says Minister Roni Milo. The meeting of the opponents of the peace initiative ended approximately an hour ago. Our correspondent Gilat Levi was there:

[Begin recording] [Levi] Minister Roni Milo said this evening that the prime minister was the butt of highly offensive remarks by Minister Ari'el Sharon. The latter would be well advised to apologize, thereby making it possible to bridge the rift in the Likud's top leadership. Minister Roni Milo was at Mezudat Ze'ev [Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv] while Levi, Sharon, and Moda'i conferred. Let us hear him:

[Milo] The prime minister habitually tries to reach understandings and agreements. I hope all the ministers pick up the habit, too, and that Minister Sharon—who attacked the prime minister so bluntly—will, for his part, make an effort to bring about an understanding and an agreement so we can continue to march on our path while demonstrating internal unity.

[Levi] Minister Ari'el Sharon hurried to react to the above at the end of the meeting of the three Likud ministers. He said: I do not deal in personal matters.

[Sharon] I repeat what I have often said: I do not deal in personal affairs. I only deal in national affairs. No one will manage to drag me into dealing in personal matters. We are facing national problems, and these are the problems we should address.

[Levi] Part of the session, which dealt with the peace initiative and the braces, was also devoted, naturally, to a discussion of the rumors that Minister Sharon was going to be fired. Minister Sharon said at the meeting that he owes no one any thanks for having a cabinet portfolio. The prime minister may be contemplating dismissing me, said Sharon, but he is looking for the right time to do that. Even if I am not in the cabinet, I will continue to fight.

Minister David Levi demanded that the Likud put an end to its self-flagellation. Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i agreed with him. He wants to achieve unity. David Levi also claimed that anyone who hides behind the prime minister's apron, directing arrows at his fellow movement members, is harming the Likud's unity. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 20 July adds: "Minister Sharon disclosed today that Yasir 'Arafat was about to accept the political initiative, but that the Likud Central Committee suspended that decision. In a more picturesque way, he described it as follows: The Likud Central Committee's resolutions placed the barrier before the cart, which was skidding downhill."]

Dismissal Intention Denied

TA2107114089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] The prime minister does not intend to dismiss Minister Ari'el Sharon at this stage. This observation was made this morning to our correspondent by Mr

Shamir's confidants. According to them, despite the rift between the two men, Mr Shamir is now interested in preserving the unity of the government and of the Likud Party. They added, however, said that in his remarks, Minister Sharon overstepped his bounds, rendering impossible any trust between Yitzhaq Shamir and Ari'el Sharon. The prime minister's aides added that they hope the prime minister's responsible attitude is not taken advantage of.

As for the upcoming Sunday cabinet meeting, the peace initiative is not expected to be raised, as far as is known. At the same time, contacts on the matter may still be held prior to the cabinet meeting.

Alignment ministers have also declared that they will not take any steps connected with the initiative and that they expect a move to be made by the prime minister.

'Key' Officials on PLO Acceptance of Initiative

TA2107053189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Jul 89 pp 1, 2

[Report by Menahem Shalev in Jerusalem and Wolf Blitzer in Washington]

[Excerpts] The PLO was about to accept Israel's peace initiative earlier this month when the Likud added its hardline "constraints" to the plan, key Jerusalem officials said last night.

The officials thus confirmed Ari'el Sharon's assertion that the "constraints" in effect saved the government from the embarrassment of the PLO's endorsement—albeit conditional—of its proposal to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza. The officials added that the PLO had proposed that a team of four residents from the territories and two American-Palestinian professors immediately start preparatory talks with the Israeli Government on the modalities of the elections.

But the PLO backtracked in the wake of the Likud decisions. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said in a television interview yesterday that Washington did not agree with the PLO assessment that the Likud decisions had "killed" the government's peace initiative.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, at his meeting with Interior Minister Arye Der'i in Cairo this week, also proposed that Israel accept Palestinians from outside the territories as negotiating partners. The Egyptians suggest Palestinian-American Professors Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu-Lughod, but indicated that other outside Palestinians could be considered. [passage omitted]

Despite Cairo's extremely negative reaction to the Likud decisions, it has agreed to go ahead with plans to negotiate with Israel over navigation rights in the Gulf of Aqabah. Officials in Jerusalem said yesterday that the talks will probably start at the end of the month and will be held in Elat or in Tabah.

Sources in both the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry last night completely rejected the suggestion for talks with outside Palestinians. Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens reject such a possibility altogether, while Vice Premier Peres and Defence Minister Rabin have indicated that they are willing to include outside Palestinians in the talks on the final status of the territories. [passage omitted]

Sources close to Peres said yesterday that the U.S. Administration has decided to press ahead with its attempts to persuade the PLO to accept the initiative, at least in principle. Only then, the sources said, would the administration think a coalition crisis in Jerusalem justifiable.

Shamir Requests Meeting With Mubarak in Egypt

TA1907070189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir requests a meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on Egyptian soil. The request was delivered in a verbal message sent through Interior Minister Der'i, who is currently visiting Egypt. Der'i is scheduled to meet with President Mubarak today. Der'i will also meet with the former chief rabbi of Egypt.

Request Rejected

TA2007184989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] In his meeting yesterday with Minister Der'i and Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, President Mubarak again rejected Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's request for a meeting. Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef said during the meeting that a compromise on territory should be made if it can save human lives. Our correspondent Yig'al Goren provides additional details:

The Arab countries are prepared for peace. Even those that hesitate to embark on the path of peace publicly have been pressuring me to promote the peace process. This is what President Mubarak told his guests, who came to report to him, among other things, that no change has occurred in Israel's peace initiative.

Shamir's initiative, said Mubarak, was vague and difficult from the outset. Now the Likud has come out with a more radical and intransigent statement proving that it is not interested in peace. We have some questions to ask about the initiative, said the president, and we sought explanations from Israel. We have not yet received any responses to our questions, however.

Replying to repeated proposals raised by Minister Der'i that a meeting with the prime minister be held, Mubarak said: Shamir did not make even one step forward toward peace. I said I am prepared to come to Israel, but immediately thereafter, for 3 consecutive days, I heard Shamir come out with declarations that Israel will not

give up one inch of land and will not pay any price for the visit. He said: We will not accept this, that, or the other. So why should I come, asked Mubarak. I greet every Israeli Cabinet member with a hearty welcome, but when the person in question is the prime minister, a positive outcome of the meeting must be guaranteed. So perhaps you should meet anyway, for the sake of peace, queried Minister Der'i. What for, asked Mubarak, only to have some tea or coffee?

Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef told the Egyptian president that according to the Jewish religion Eretz Yisra'el is very important, but human life is even more so. If it is possible to prevent war, save lives, and achieve real peace, a compromise should be reached on territory, said Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef.

President Mubarak ended by saying: The Arab countries desire peace. To prove that, in the Casablanca conference, where I presented my peace policy, no one rejected it, not even Al-Qadhdhafi or Al-Asad.

Officials 'Pleased' With Dialogue With Egypt

TA2007152089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] This afternoon Interior Minister Arye Der'i briefed the prime minister on his visit to Egypt and on his meetings with the Egyptian president and foreign minister, which focused on Mr Shamir's peace initiative. Minister Der'i explained to his hosts that Israel is committed to the peace initiative and briefed them on the political situation in Israel.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the Egyptians were interested in the peace initiative, but had reservations about it. Our correspondent adds that Israeli authorities are pleased with the ministerial-level dialogue between Israel and Egypt.

Comment Refused on Contact With Syria in Lebanon

TA2007173489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] In Lebanon, REUTER reports that Syrian forces blitzed the Christian enclave after apparently backing away from a confrontation with Israel at sea. Security sources said 11 people were killed and 70 wounded in the worst artillery duel since the May cease-fire.

The same sources told REUTER that Syrian warships, which had been blockading the coastline, did not obstruct Israeli naval boats which were escorting ships loaded with vegetables to a Christian force north of Beirut.

Israeli security authorities refused to relate to the REUTER report.

Netanyahu on U.S. Senate Vote on PLO Talks

TA2107060889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Excerpt] [Einstein] Good morning, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good morning.

[Einstein] President George Bush exerted pressure, and Senator Helms' amendment was not adopted. Is this another signal from the U.S. Administration that the communication channels with the PLO must not be cut off if the peace process is to be promoted?

[Netanyahu] I think this U.S. Administration stand is well known. The interesting aspect here is not that, but rather the determined opposition expressed by other circles to this dialogue and to the continued ties with the PLO, which is rightfully perceived there as a key terrorist element responsible for the murder of Americans. This is the truly new development, and we naturally welcome it.

[Einstein] Although, as you said, there are other circles, they were in the minority. President George Bush's intervention to prevent the adoption of Senator Helms' amendment testifies to the administration's determination to continue, as well as to the fact that nothing has changed.

[Netanyahu] Look, I do not wish to discuss the amendment itself because we will not intervene in the process itself, just as we expect the Americans to refrain from intervening in our processes. It is obvious, however, that those who believed that there has been an erosion in our position as a result of our stand against negotiations with the PLO—as you know, we object to the PLO's very existence; we believe it is detrimental to the peace process—and believed that we have no supporters or friends, have today been shown that this is not true. There is very strong support for both the rejection of contacts with the PLO and for our peace initiative. These two components of Israeli policy enjoy very strong support in the main arena of U.S. politics: Congress.

[Einstein] You could have been much happier this morning, however, had Helms' amendment been endorsed by the Senate.

[Netanyahu] It is obvious that the U.S. Senate has expressed very determined reservations about contacts with the PLO. It is also clear that when the U.S. Congress passes laws against negotiations with an organization that has murdered Americans, the United States will find it much easier to understand why Israel does not negotiate with a body that murders Israelis. This certainly does not make our work there more difficult.

[Einstein] Will the Foreign Ministry and the embassy in Washington continue their efforts to convince the U.S. Administration to lower the profile of its contacts with the PLO?

[Netanyahu] These contacts are held continuously, although I wish to stress again that we have not and will not interfere with legislative processes. Our stands, however, are clear and well known. The logic behind our stands is very simple: Contrary to the widely accepted view which you have mentioned, we believe contacts with the PLO discourage those Palestinians whom we would like to see as part of the initiative, Palestinians who do not deal with terror and do not assassinate other Palestinians. They are naturally discouraged by seeing the United States hold talks with 'Arafat, Abu-Iyad [Khalaf Salah], and the entire terrorist network which is harming them. I say, therefore, that any political move that undermines the PLO's strength promotes the chances for a peace process and for free elections in the territories. Two conditions must be met in order to hold elections: First, an increase in security in the area; second, a reduction of the PLO's political and general strength in the international arena. Clearly, the recent development in Washington limits the PLO's international power. [passage omitted]

Arens Cited on Decision

TA2107105789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Report on an interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Nati Silberman on 21 July, during a tour of Qiryat Ata—recorded]

[Text] [Silberman] Citizens, as well as public representatives, must act respectfully toward their prime minister. This is the elusive way Foreign Minister Moshe Arens expressed his view of the recent rift between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon.

[Arens] I do not want to go into personal issues, but I believe that what I have said covers all the aspects. Each of us should treat Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir as a prime minister and address him as one would a prime minister.

[Silberman] Touring Qiryat Ata today, the minister also addressed the Alignment-Likud controversy, which, according to him, is over.

[Arens] I must say I do not feel we are in the midst of a crisis at this moment. There may be occasional differences of opinion, and perhaps some running to and fro, but I believe we have weathered the crisis.

[Silberman] Minister Arens received with great satisfaction the Senate decision to refrain from holding talks with PLO representatives who are involved in terrorist acts against U.S. citizens. According to him, this step proves that the United States is marching in the right direction, realizing that the Israeli peace initiative is the only initiative aiming for peace.

[Arens] We can see that there is now an awareness in the United States of the problems posed by holding talks with the PLO. I think this awareness is a step in the right direction. An awareness of this organization's terrorist nature certainly exists in Israel; therefore, despite the fact that we had no part in the U.S. Senate legislation, no Israeli regrets it.

Shamir Meets Pro-Fatah E. Jerusalem Journalist

TA2107110189 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jul 89 p A1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The prime minister met this week with a senior East Jerusalem journalist, known to be a Fatah supporter who openly expresses his views on the issue. A senior political source, who told this to HA'ARETZ, said the Palestinian journalist agreed to meet with Shamir after it was hinted that the prime minister planned to use him to transmit a message to the PLO leadership in Tunis. In the meeting, however, Shamir spoke about the need for a direct dialogue between Israel and the inhabitants of the territories without PLO intervention, and the journalist left the meeting disappointed.

The Prime Minister's Office said in reply that since the Likud Central Committee meeting, Shamir has held two meetings with Palestinians from the territories, one of them with a Gazan, but that no information on these meetings is released. The Prime Minister's Office stressed that Shamir will continue to meet with residents of the territories in an effort to promote the government's peace initiative.

UK, Soviet Union Protest Sharon Remarks

TA2107054489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Britain has relayed to Israel its protest over Minister Ari'el Sharon's remarks that Yasir 'Arafat must be assassinated. The protest was voiced by William Waldegrave, the Foreign Office minister of state, in a meeting with Major General Amnon Shahaq, chief of intelligence, who is currently in London.

The UK Foreign Office spokesman has said that the minister of state told Gen Shahaq and Ambassador Yo'av Biran, who accompanied the intelligence chief, that Minister Sharon's remarks incite violence.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman also sharply attacked Minister Sharon's remarks yesterday.

Sharon Sees 'Different Likud' After Vote

TA0707104289 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 7 Jul 89 pp 2, 3

["Special" interview with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon by Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Ben-Porat] In view of what happened at the central committee convention, do you have reason to be pleased?

[Sharon] Yes, I am pleased. We dealt with substance, bypassing procedural issues. Having done that, we neutralized the dangers inherent in the initiative.

[Ben-Porat] Is this your victory and Shamir's defeat?

[Sharon] It is not a personal matter. Shamir is a patriot, but he has chosen a very dangerous path. If instead of the hundreds, or perhaps thousands of hours which we have all devoted to persuading central committee members for and against the plan, the cabinet had convened for 3, 6, or 9 hours to discuss the details of the initiative, the initiative would have come out entirely different. If that had been the case, nothing of what has happened would have taken place.

[Ben-Porat] Is the "most dangerous plan," as you have defined it, less dangerous now?

[Sharon] It is still dangerous, but the four principles have neutralized some of its perils.

[Ben-Porat] Is it not, after all, an oral commitment?

[Sharon] Absolutely not. The prime minister's statement contained a stipulation that the resolution binds the Likud representatives in the cabinet and the Knesset. Such a stipulation is of consequence. Also, it is impossible to overlook the trends in the Likud as they were reflected in the central committee members' reactions. They were indifferent to the peace initiative, but as soon as the issues of security, the elimination of violence, settlement, and the nonpartition of Eretz Yisra'el were mentioned, you could see a lot of enthusiasm there. People in Israel and abroad, who were following the developments in the central committee, could not have failed to notice this aspect.

[Ben-Porat] Speaking of the central committee, allow me to remark that all of you treated it as a rubber stamp. The four of you—the prime minister and the three ministers—locked yourselves in a room and made an agreement which the central committee members were then invited to cheer, without having an opportunity to express their views. Is this proper?

[Sharon] Look, there has been heated argument ever since I first raised my reservations and the four principles on the day the initiative was endorsed in the cabinet. As for the four principles, despite the fact that I appeal to the prime minister every Sunday to submit them for a cabinet vote, he has not done so to this very day. The continuing argument over the initiative made the issue very plain to the central committee members. It was no news to them, and there was therefore no need to hash it out again.

[Ben-Porat] Has Shamir's leadership weakened?

[Sharon] No, but I assume the approach that veteran and experienced colleagues can be ignored was proven to be wrong.

[Ben-Porat] Does this mean that in your opinion, Shamir has realized that there is a power center in the party which he cannot bypass?

[Sharon] They ignored this power center, but they will have to start taking it into account. There was an obvious attempt to bypass a group of experienced people and to try to rely on others. I am all in favor of young people; the error was in not consulting with experienced people as well.

[Ben-Porat] Let's talk turkey: Do Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i deserve the place currently occupied by the "princes" and the rest of the entourage?

[Sharon] I would not use those terms, but I would say that the three of us have decided to continue acting together. Not as an opposition, God forbid, but as a group which makes its stands known. What actually took place in the central committee is that as of now, there will be a different Likud. There had been a certain expectation both in the United States and here—it could be felt in the young Labor Party members' demonstration against me and for Shamir—that the Likud would be in some way different from what it has been and should be. In fact, the Likud has regained its original identity. This image of a "respectable" center party willing to compromise even on vital ideological issues, has vanished. I think all this has ended. This was the contribution of the three of us.

[Ben-Porat] Should not a responsible ruling party be pragmatic, that is to say, flexible?

[Sharon] Even a ruling party cannot be pragmatic at the expense of its principles. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Porat] Has the U.S.-PLO rapprochement facilitated your move to a certain extent?

[Sharon] Several developments in this sphere certainly had an impact. At the central committee convention, Shamir finally demanded that the United States discontinue the negotiations with the PLO. Another important factor was the identity of those who supported the

initiative: Peace Now, CRM [Citizens Rights Movement], MAPAM [United Workers Party], and the Alignment on the one hand, and the PLO, which announced that it was waiting for the outcome of the Likud convention, on the other. Do you not think this milieu of supporters is foreign to Shamir?

[Ben-Porat] In short, you managed to thwart the chance the initiative had. Are you pleased?

[Sharon] In the short run the result may be a delay and a more difficult position. In the long run, however, it is vital that Israel state now what it will be willing to accept, and what it will reject. The Arabs, too, must be aware of it. There should be no excessive expectations. In essence, this is what the central committee stated.

[Ben-Porat] You stated: Quelling the intifadah [uprising]. Will stating the goal suffice to quell it?

[Sharon] The statement and the resolution are necessary to prevent negotiations as long as violence continues. Naturally, it all depends on the extent to which the resolutions will be implemented.

[Ben-Porat] Will you supervise the implementation?

[Sharon] You bet I will, with the assistance of the central committee. Although the committee is not above the cabinet and the Knesset, it may guide its representatives to act according to clearly-stated principles. Not everything is brought to the central committee. For instance, the question of whether the Iraqi reactor should be attacked is not, but issues pertaining to Eretz Yisra'el and Jerusalem certainly are. The central committee will follow the implementation of its resolution relentlessly.

[Ben-Porat] You said 2 days ago that Shamir is known as one who breaks agreements. Will he honor the central committee resolutions?

[Sharon] I admit that I used a harsh expression, perhaps superfluously, in reaction to the campaign against me. I had to balance things. This issue should be seen in the correct context. Honoring the resolutions will reinforce Shamir's position, and that is important to him. I find it difficult to believe that he does not intend to act in accordance with what he said.

[Ben-Porat] Would you like the government to dissolve and the Alignment to secede?

[Sharon] No. Everyone knows that I objected to a government that includes the Alignment, but Shamir did not and does not want a narrow government. This is reason enough for me. Naturally, a narrow-based government would have adopted resolutions preventing the continuation of violence and terror in the territories.

[Ben-Porat] Do you still want Rabin out of the Defense Ministry?

[Sharon] You know I think highly of the man, but he has not been able to come up with the right answer to this problem. This embroiled us in some unbelievably tough political dilemmas.

[Ben-Porat] A very personal question: Do you not fear that Shamir, who does not regard you as one of his darlings anyway, will take revenge for what you did to him in the central committee?

[Sharon] I do not owe my membership in the cabinet to anyone's favors. I was not nurtured and raised by the party administration, and it is not the source of my strength. I do not build my participation or nonparticipation in the cabinet on any one personal relationship. And I told you a long time ago, in a previous interview, how long I intend to remain in the government. My red line is known.

[Ben-Porat] I have the impression that your standing and your potential for remaining in the government were reinforced this week.

[Sharon] I can see in your eyes that you are sorry about it, despite all the friendship between us—which of course does not prevent our having differences of opinion.

Editorial Urges Alignment To Leave Coalition

TA0707152989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jul 89 p B1

[Editorial: "The Alignment at a Crossroads"]

[Text] It is very strange to learn that here and there the following opinion can be heard: That the Likud Central Committee resolution following Yitzhaq Shamir's speech does not change a thing; that the government resolution on the political initiative is still operative; that anyway it was known that the Likud firmly rejects the establishment of an Arab-Palestinian state and any other form of non-Jewish rule in Eretz Yisra'el; that the Likud aspires to additional settlements; and that Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal to give East Jerusalem Arabs the right to vote for a Palestinian representation is unacceptable to Yitzhaq Shamir. Thus, what was the excitement about? Under this view, the political initiative will continue to exist.

The truth is that the initiative, or the chance of its success, was seriously harmed by what occurred Wednesday night at the north Tel Aviv fairgrounds. There is a basic difference between a politician's private views as published in newspapers almost daily and a resolution by a party whose leader is currently the prime minister: The meaning that a party that leads a coalition gives to a government resolution must be considered a political fact with its own intrinsic value.

Shamir in his address and the Likud Central Committee in its resolution decided, in fact, on the character of the permanent arrangement even before an agreement has

been achieved on the details of implementing the election plan in the occupied territories. This fact might make negotiations between the elected representatives and Israel—negotiations on the permanent solution to the Palestinian problem—meaningless. If this is the case, what is the point of any elections at all?

Our American friends might also try to act as though nothing has happened in Israel, but while they might have assumed up to now that Israel's prime minister listens to the views of his defense minister, they now realize that Yitzhaq Shamir has agreed to put himself under the tight and ongoing supervision of Ari'el Sharon, David Levi, and Yitzhaq Moda'i.

This fact will not be ignored by the Arabs, not only in Tunis, but also in Cairo, Amman, and Riyadh, not to speak of all the EC countries and the USSR.

It is difficult to comprehend the optimism which the prime minister's inner circle is taking the trouble to cultivate. There is a much stronger basis for the evaluation that the Likud in fact succeeded in derailing the initiative from the path along which the plan had managed to move.

If this evaluation is truer to regional and international reality than to the above laid-back optimism, then the Labor Party must ask itself if it is prepared to take responsibility for slowing down the political process, or even its cessation. If the Likud sees the solution to the Palestinian problem in strengthening the actions to uproot the intifadah [uprising] as the chances of finding a political arrangement disappear beyond the horizon, and Israel finds itself facing increasing hostility from important international forces, the Labor Party would be better off in leaving responsibility for creating this situation with the Likud and whoever else is prepared to take it.

The Alignment claimed up to now that it is capable of reining in its senior coalition partner; the Likud Central Committee proved how slight that ability is, and if the Alignment does not reach the right conclusion now its popularity will drop to nil. The electorate will know how to respond.

Editorial: Likud Decisions Lead to 'Dead End'
TA0707160089 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
7 Jul 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Likud Decisions Dotted the I's and Crossed the T's"]

[Text] The Likud "show" ended and the curtain came down. The end of the show, however, was disappointing. Many believed that the Israeli prime minister would be able to resist the radical triad of Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i, but Shamir capitulated to the conditions of the extremists and avoided a confrontation with his rivals. It thus became abundantly clear that the Likud dispute was no more than a tempest in a teapot. We have now, in fact, returned to the starting point of the peace process, or even before the starting point. The central committee's decisions will take us backward and are a clear manifestation of Israeli rigidness, indicating that Israel refuses to make the slightest concession. It is now certain that whether Shamir wins or loses his battle with Sharon, it will not have the least effect on what Shamir and his camp are proposing. Shamir's plan will continue to remain dubious. Shamir's initiative has no linkage whatsoever between the interim solution and the proposed elections, and the final solution signified by the "exchange of land for peace."

In sum, the Likud decisions will lead us to a dead end. The Americans and the Egyptians bet on Shamir's "horse" and applied pressure on the PLO to display moderation in order to win Israeli public opinion. This is what they tended to believe. The PLO gave the maximum concessions it could offer in order to advance the peace process. What will the Americans and the Egyptians tell us today? And what is the achievement of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, which we considered a giant step toward Washington's adoption of a "balanced" policy regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict? Undoubtedly the United States, Israel's major ally, is feeling frustrated today. It cannot continue ignoring the reality of the Israeli position which rejects the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace. It also cannot continue ignoring the Palestinian people's basic rights. It will be difficult for the United States to find a way out of this impasse without making clear and courageous decisions.

As for sister Egypt, which is linked with Israel by a peace treaty, it exerted its utmost efforts to bring about a convergence of Palestinian-Israeli viewpoints in the belief that the conditions in which agreement was reached between Egypt and Israel also apply to the Palestinians. Hence, Egypt overlooked the Zionist ideology and the Israelis' conviction of their rights in the "land of Israel." Egypt today is feeling frustrated after it became clear that what Israel is proposing to the Palestinians is much less than what it agreed to in the Camp David accords.

In the face of these painful facts, what is left for the Palestinians? The Palestinian people and their leadership have delineated a peaceful strategy and will continue on this course. We knew from the beginning that the road would not be easy and that the political battle will not be easier than the military one.

The Palestinian people have defined their goals. Israeli rejection and intransigence will not prevent us from achieving our objectives. Palestinian principles have not been a reaction to Israel's aspirations and practices but stem from convictions carved in the mountains of Palestine and deeply rooted in Palestinian soil.

We seek freedom and peace, and this blessed procession will continue until these goals are attained. The Israeli people will ultimately be convinced that they must

respond to the Palestinian people's aspirations, because their disavowal of our people's rights will lead to grave disasters.

Columnist Views Attacks Against Palestinians

JN0907163189 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1339 GMT 9 Jul 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: Yesterday, Palestinians from the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem were attacked in the course of riots created by few Israeli Jews. Some cars were pelted with stones. In addition to the immediate measures taken by the police and security forces to handle the situation, those attacks, which some have termed an anti-uprising coming as reply to the intifadah [uprising] of the Palestinians, aroused a wave of condemnation and denouncement, both on the official government level through the ministers and the prime minister and on the level of Israeli public opinion, as expressed by the Israeli newspapers through their main articles.

The majority of rational Israelis, thus, did not and will not remain indifferent to such attacks against innocent Palestinians. This is totally contrary to the stands adopted by the majority of rational Palestinians toward the sinful, terrorist attacks perpetrated daily against innocent Israelis within the framework of the so-called Palestinian intifadah.

The big, serious question that has been urgently posing itself now and for a long time is whether the rational majority among the Palestinians will draw the correct conclusions from yesterday's incidents and the development of things. Yes, the serious, pressing question is whether the rational majority among the Palestinians will speak out, abandon its indifference, and control things before it is too late.

At any rate, yesterday's incidents should switch on the red lights and ring the danger bells for both the majority of rational Palestinians and the majority of rational Israelis.

Assesses Jordan's Al-Qasim Speech

JN1007150589 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1340 GMT 10 Jul 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners, 3 months ago—to be more specific, on 9 April—Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim told AFP: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's proposal to organize elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip aims to destroy the peace process in the Middle East. This is what Mr Marwan al-Qasim said 3 months ago when commenting on the Israeli peace initiative, which was approved by the government and the Knesset in Israel.

Yesterday, in a speech to the fifth expatriates' conference in Amman, Mr Marwan al-Qasim himself called on the Palestinians to accept the proposed election plan within the framework of the Israeli peace initiative, after guaranteeing reasonable conditions for implementing them.

The Jordanian foreign minister addressed his speech to the Palestinians and told them: Do not say no to the elections. Say yes. Do not reject the principle as a part of a just framework and under international supervision.

Marwan al-Qasim added: Elections could guarantee all Palestinian rights, including self-determination.

It is clear that the Jordanian foreign minister's stand yesterday on the Israeli peace initiative is totally different from the stand mentioned earlier, which he took 3 months ago on the same initiative. This positive development comes undoubtedly after a careful study and objective analysis of the proposed elections idea within the framework of the Israeli peace plan.

Despite everything that has been and is being said about the Likud Central Committee's decisions, the demagoguery and biased claims against Israel—despite all that, there is a constant fact that all peace-lovers and those committed to the cause of peace should be aware of. This truth is that the idea of holding elections on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip constitutes, on the one hand, an honorable way to liberate the Palestinians in the regions from a predicament—the trap of the intifadah [uprising].

On the other hand, if it actually materializes, it constitutes a good start and positive turning point toward untying the knots in the Palestine question one after the other, thus realizing coexistence and peace between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples, despite all extremists, rejectionists, and those calling for hatred and grudges between nations and religions.

Analyst Sees Major Improvement in SLA

TA2007143889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jul 89 p 9

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Significant Improvement in the SLA"]

[Excerpts] A visit to the security strip is somewhat like "taking a break" from the intifadah [uprising]. Here a different war is being waged. Seven years after the Lebanon war broke out and 4 years since the withdrawal of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], very few mementos from that war remain. One of them is Beaufort fortress, which dates back to Crusader times and which served as the terrorists' observation point for the Galilee panhandle.

When that site was captured, former Prime Minister Begin and then Defense Minister Sharon handed it over to Major Haddad as a gift. Today it is not those who received the gift who man the fortress, but IDF paratroopers. [passage omitted]

The SLA [South Lebanese Army] and the Israeli liaison unit that works closely with it are elated. The feeling is that the SLA, a force numbering approximately 2,500 troops, is improving and fulfilling all its missions. The SLA recently even talked about the establishment of a division command. General Lahd's headquarters, which is responsible for the two brigades deployed in the area, is already starting to restructure itself toward assuming that role. The command includes a heavy-equipment company and an ordnance unit, and coordinates all the training programs as well as the "security establishment," a form of regional defense service.

What distinguishes the SLA from all the other Lebanese militias is that it is the only one in which Christians, Shi'ites, and Druze work together. The two brigades are headed by a Christian and a Druze. Among the six battalion commanders the balance still leaves something to be desired, as one of them is Shi'ite while the others are Christian. Yet as one descends the military pyramid, one can see the ethnic balance improve. Thus, for instance, the intelligence officer is Shi'ite. A predominantly Druze battalion is commanded by a Christian officer. Another battalion consists primarily of Shi'ites. Now one can even find Shi'ite soldiers manning the SLA's artillery batteries deployed in the area.

The composition of the force gives the impression that this is a normal military unit for all intents and purposes. Apart from the artillery batteries, the brigade commands also have an engineering unit. The efforts to emulate the IDF are evident throughout. To wit, a reconnaissance platoon for special projects was recently established. The battalion commands are deployed out front, in very close proximity to the line of outposts, of which there are dozens. The equipment in many areas has improved.

The tanks are Soviet-made T-55's seized by the IDF as booty. Mine-clearing tanks are also deployed, as are many 120-mm mortars which were distributed among the units. The forces are deployed relatively densely, making it possible for the IDF to man a short line in southern Lebanon. The IDF's fighting units in southern Lebanon are currently quite small, numbering only several hundred men.

The impressive progress in the SLA is noticeable in its training. Most of the training activity and courses are conducted in southern Lebanon, in the central training camp at al-Majidiyah. Basic training lasts 3 months, followed by professional training and company training. The SLA currently provides squad commander courses, as well as a cadet course, and even a company commanders course. The latter lasts 2 and ½ months. Soon the third class will begin its training, making nearly all SLA company commanders course graduates.

The key question is whether all these investments have changed the SLA's operational capability. Undoubtedly there has been a general improvement, first of all in its defensive capability. To date neither Hizballah nor Amal nor the Palestinians have been able to break the SLA's defensive line, scoring only regional successes. There has also been an improvement in discipline, although the SLA still lacks a legal system. Thus, like in the tribal system, the judgment of the "chieftains" cannot be challenged. The improvement in discipline is also manifested in the smaller number of incidents with UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon]. Still, these improvements do not allow the SLA to qualify as a force having offensive capabilities. The above is an accurate description of the current state of affairs. Yet like everything else in Lebanon, surprises can always be expected, particularly if these achievements are accompanied by apathy.

Do these achievements allow the IDF to withdraw completely from southern Lebanon, transferring all the responsibility to the SLA? The answer is negative. The SLA's achievements stem from, among other things, the fact that every command—beginning with the battalion level and all the way up to the highest command level—is accompanied by IDF "coaching commands," which act like a tutor, closely following everything that happens. A further cut in the number of IDF troops in southern Lebanon may be possible, but without the close backing of the IDF, the SLA might sink.

Poll Shows Palestinians Favor Elections

TA0207131189 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jul 89 p 2

[Report by Ori Nir]

[Text] Over 80 percent of the Palestinians in the territories support the idea of elections, provided they are held after the Israeli army withdraws from the territories; they are held under international supervision; and on the condition that they constitute a step toward the achievement of a final settlement for the establishment of a Palestinian state and a total Israeli withdrawal from the territories. These findings are the result of a poll conducted by the East Jerusalem weekly AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI through interviews with 104 residents of the territories, including numerous public figures, who were selected as a group representing popular trends.

The findings of the poll, which was not conducted in accordance with scientific statistical norms, were published yesterday in the weekly's latest issue. One hundred four residents of the territories, most of them prominent public figures (elected mayors, intellectuals, trade union activists, etc), were asked the same question: "Do you

agree that elections be held in the territories on the basis of an Israeli withdrawal from the towns, under the supervision of international observers, and under the condition that the elections constitute the first step toward the achievement of a comprehensive and just solution in the area?"

The interviewees' answers to the question were not limited to either yes or no. Their replies, in which they explained their stand on the issue, were rather lengthy.

A synthesis of the various replies, compiled by the weekly's staff, shows that only 17 percent of the respondents said they are categorically opposed to elections in the territories, all conditions notwithstanding. Most of them explained their stand by saying that the Palestinian people have a recognized and authorized representation in the PLO, and that electing an alternative representation is useless.

All the other answers—about 83 percent—were variations of a reserved support for elections. Their reservations included: Israeli withdrawal (14 percent accepted a withdrawal from populated centers only, while 86 percent insisted on a total Israeli withdrawal as the first condition for the elections); international supervision over the elections; and a priori PLO consent to the holding of the elections. The PLO will determine the conditions under which the elections are to be held. The elections will be only the means, rather than a goal in itself, and will be considered part of a comprehensive and permanent solution the nature of which will be determined in advance.

Some of the respondents raised further conditions, such as a U.S. guarantee that Israel will take no steps against the elected delegates, and that the elected figures be part of a representative Palestinian delegation which is to include PLO-appointed representatives of the Palestinian diaspora.

1 Dead, Several Injured in Territories 20 Jul

TA2007165489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Three Arabs were injured by rocks thrown at their vehicles on the Pat-Gilo road in Jerusalem an hour ago. Our correspondent Shlomi Stein reports that five Arab cars were stoned and damaged. Two Arabs were slightly injured; a third was injured a little more seriously. He was evacuated to a Bethlehem hospital.

One Palestinian was killed in the village of Burin in Samaria. This happened during an operation in the village initiated by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], during which a violent confrontation developed. A 17-year-old youth was killed and another was injured in this clash.

Last night two Palestinian residents of the village of Irtah near Bethlehem were injured. An IDF patrol entered the village, where it encountered violent opposition. The soldiers began to shoot, wounding two of the violent opponents.

The toll for today in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza: Five injured and one dead.

A general strike was observed in the territories today. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 20 July adds: "Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that several places in the Gaza District were placed under curfew for order violations." The report also adds that "the military appeals court has meted out heavier sentences than those imposed by a lower court on several inhabitants of the territories who were charged with security offenses, including the hurling of Molotov cocktails. The court doubled their sentence."

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 20 July reports that "a Jewish resident of the Old City of Jerusalem who was driving by the Old City was pelted with rocks. He fired in the air three times, but no one was hurt. Several suspects have been apprehended."]

Further on 20 Jul Incidents

TA2107103389 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 21 Jul 89 p 7

[Report by Oren Kohen, Mikhal Qedem, and Shim'on Elqabetz]

[Excerpts] Yesterday in the territories, a 17 year old was killed and 21 were wounded. In the course of initiated operations in various West Bank locations, the security forces detained a number of wanted persons. A Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli cab in Jerusalem. No damage was caused. [passage omitted]

In another incident, 18-year-old Nadim al-Khalili from Nabulus was shot in the back. Official military sources had no knowledge of the incident, but Arab sources said that shots were exchanged between soldiers and locals, who were evidently wanted men. According to them, after the shoot-out, Al-Khalili arrived at al-Ittihad Hospital, but was removed by soldiers who followed him. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] made numerous arrests in the wake of the incident.

Marwan Musa (18) from the Nur al-Shams refugee camp was wounded in the abdomen by a plastic bullet. He was evacuated to a hospital in Tulkarm. It has been learned from military sources that the youth was wounded in a stoning incident. Arab sources reported that in the Qalandiyah refugee camp, 15-year-old Ahmad al-Mattar was injured in the head and neck by two bullets. He was hospitalized in a Ramallah hospital. Military sources said they had no information about the incident.

In the village of Jaba', where an initiated operation was conducted in the morning hours, three residents were wounded, according to military sources. Arab sources said that four persons were wounded.

Two senior intifadah [uprising] activists were detained yesterday in the village of Dayr al-Ghusun. The two are Hamdan Safa'n, (35), former al-Najah University Students Association chairman, and Kayfi Badran, an engineer who had spent 18 months under administrative detention and was released last month. In the village of Jammalah, the security forces detained Mukhtar al-Latif Tahir Salman, as well as appointed council head Hasan Muhammad Hadir. The two detentions were made in the wake of clashes in the village between residents and soldiers.

A general strike in response to the uprising leadership orders was observed yesterday in the Gaza Strip. The Rafah District and the Khan Yunus camp were under curfew.

Arab sources reported 13 gunfire injuries in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood and in Jabalyah, al-Mughazi, al-Burayj, and Rafah refugee camps. The sources added that in the village of al-Amal, the security forces demolished the home of Jamal Tawfiq al-Astal, a relative of the mayor of Khan Yunus. According to them, the army also demolished three houses in Khan Yunus. The sources further stated that the Gaza Dentists Association secretary was detained in the neighborhood of al-Shaja'iyah. They said that soldiers and plainclothes security men took Dr Yusuf Abu-Ramadan 'Awadallah (40) from his home during the night. The IDF spokesman confirmed that 'Awadallah was detained under administrative orders and is currently at Ansar-3 prison in Qezi'ot. [passage omitted]

Hamas Leaflet Urges W. Bank School Attendance
TA2107112389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, supports the resumption of studies in Judaea and Samaria, despite the general strike it had scheduled for tomorrow. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Hamas leaflet No 45, which was disseminated today, calls on the students to attend school and to resume regular studies. The movement emphasizes that although the resumption of studies is an Israeli attempt to embellish the ugly face of the occupation, it is the duty of students, teachers, and families to pursue the cause of education.

Paris Club Agrees To Reschedule Kingdom's Debts

JN2007182889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Paris Club of creditor countries has agreed to reschedule Jordan's debts due in 1989 and 1990 over a period of 10 years with a grace period of 5 years. Jordan's debts owed to Paris Club members constitute 40 percent of Jordan's overall foreign debts which officially amount to $8.3 billion. Under the agreement, the servicing of Jordan's debts to the Paris Club for 1989, which amounts to $327 million has been rescheduled to 1994, and the servicing of Jordan's debts for next year, amounting to $360 million, has been rescheduled to 1995. The Jordanian Government is expected to sign bilateral agreements with the creditor countries, France, the United States, the FRG, the United Kingdom, Italy, and Japan to determine the interest rate on this rescheduling.

Paper Notes Plan To Change Currency to Pound

NC2107092789 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jul 89 pp 1, 7

[Exerpt] Nabulus exclusive to AL-SHA'B correspondent—It has been learned from informed economic sources that the Jordanian Government is serious in preparing a quick study by experts from the Finance Ministry and the Jordanian Central Bank to change radically and comprehensively the Jordanian currency in order to replace the Jordanian dinar with the Jordanian pound, stabilize its exchange rate, and issue new banknotes for 100 pounds, 50 pounds, 25 pounds, and 10 pounds, while the half pound notes and the fils currency will remain silver coins.

These sources speculate that the new currency will be introduced at the start of November in order to stabilize it in the local, Arab, and world markets.

A proposal to change the name of the Jordanian dinar to the Jordanian dollar was rejected. It is expected to be called the pound, the name used in Transjordan until 1949-50. [passage omitted]

Iraqi, Egyptian Foreign Ministers Affirm Support

JN2107072189 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Jul 89 pp 1, 17

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Excerpt] Iraq and Egypt yesterday reaffirmed their support to Jordan. Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, emphasized his country's unlimited and complete support for Jordan against the fierce media campaign and tendentious rumors that Israel is disseminating with the aim of harming the economy of Jordan, which is steadfastly stationed along the longest confrontation line with the Zionist enemy.

'Aziz, who is in Jordan to attend the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] foreign ministers meetings, said Iraq's support for Jordan against any Israeli threat in all fields is complete and unlimited.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, 'Aziz said: For us in Iraq, this issue is well known and taken for granted. He added: Iraq is known for its complete backing of the Palestinian Arab people and their leadership, represented by the Palestinian state and the PLO.

'Aziz noted that this represents the stands of the ACC states, which will adopt a clear and firm position confronting any threats to the ACC or any Arab state out of our adherence to the collective Arab defense pact. He stressed Iraq's adherence to Arab rights and interests.

'Aziz said: At this stage, we need an active political confrontation of the Israeli repression of the Palestinian people and Israel's political maneuvers, such as the Shamir plan, which is aimed at undermining the achievements of the intifadah [uprising]. The Casablanca summit adopted a clear stand by rejecting the Shamir plan and insisting on convening an international peace conference. The summit also stressed adherence to the Palestinian people's rights, especially their right to self-determination, and emphasized the need for complete Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

In a separate statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed Egypt's support for Jordan in all cases. 'Abd-al-Majid condemned Israel's repressive measures because they are an obstacle to peace. [passage omitted]

ACC Foreign Ministers Meeting in Amman Noted

Meetings Begin 20 Jul

JN2007130489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir received at the Prime Ministry at mid-morning the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] countries. Their discussions dealt with areas of cooperation and coordination among the Foreign Ministries of the four states, especially in coordinating their diplomatic moves on Arab issues in international conferences. Their dicsussions also covered Arab developments and solidarity.

The prime minister underscored Jordan's commitment to a consolidation of the ACC's march to advance the objectives of the group and the Arab nation.

The foreign ministers told the prime minister they looked forward to developing mechanisms of furthering cooperation among the Foreign Ministries of the ACC countries.

Meanwhile, the ACC foreign ministers' meetings got under way in Amman today. The 2-day meetings will take up cooperation and coordination among the Foreign Ministries of the four countries through joint plans and mechanisms to put into practice the principles and objectives set by the founding pact of the ACC.

Taking part in the meetings are Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and his counterparts in Iraq, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, Tariq 'Aziz; 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid; and 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani.

Speaking at the first working session Al-Qasim said that since the Amman meeting to prepare the ACC agreement, later endorsed by the ACC heads of state in Baghdad on 16 February 1989, we have taken strides down the road of crystallizing the principles and objectives charted by our leaders to build this pan-Arab, unionist edifice as an advanced formula of joint Arab action. The creation of the ACC against the backdrop of new Arab developments testified to a determination by our countries to defend our causes and joint interests and to a growing Arab spirit to forge closer Arab ties.

The deputy prime minister noted that today's meeting is to implement a decision by our leaders to lay down plans and create mechanisms as channels of coordination and cooperation among the Foreign Ministries as called for by the founding agreement of the ACC. Al-Qasim declared that two key points must be stressed, namely that any coordination or cooperation among ourselves will in effect bolster the wider pan-Arab cooperation, and that intensified coordination among the ACC constituent members should lead toward uniform policies geared to the common interests of these countries.

Al-Qasim went on to say that, at the Alexandria summit, our leaders charted for us a plan whereby we can address the world with one voice and approach regional blocs so as to bring us the greatest and best benefits. Al-Qasim also noted that the plan calls for consultation and coordination among the Foreign Ministries and their foreign embassies to bring about harmony with Arab and international policies in an atmosphere of ongoing changes and developments.

He reviewed major pan-Arab issues topped by the Palestinian cause—the central Arab issue. Al-Qasim said that despite all the plans and measures recently announced by Israel to thwart peaceful Palestinian moves and crush the blessed intifadah [uprising], as well as obstruct Arab and international efforts to speed up the peace process, the international position now clearly favors Palestinian and Arab rights.

Al-Qasim stressed the need for increased efforts to bring about a resumption of negotiations between Iraq and Iran with a view to implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598 so that the cease-fire can give way to a state of permanent peace. He hoped international efforts will be geared toward leaning on Iran to cease dragging its feet and move to make peace with Iraq and toward urging Tehran to assume its responsibilities in restoring normality, stability, and security to the region.

The deputy prime minister stressed that the ACC countries stand by sisterly Lebanon as expressed by the group's leaders at the Alexandria summit when they supported Arab efforts represented by the three-member higher committee entrusted with addressing the Lebanon crisis. Al-Qasim also recalled that the ACC leaders expressed the hope at the Alexandria summit that the higher committee will be able to find a peaceful settlement to staunch the bloodletting and safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and unity and ensure its sovereignty over its entire territory.

The foreign ministers then began a closed session chaired by Marwan al-Qasim to consider four working papers presented by the member countries concerning cooperation and coordination among the four Foreign Ministries on various Arab and international issues.

The meetings were attended by the secretary general of the ACC and his assistant as well as the ambassadors of the ACC countries in Amman.

First Working Session Ends

JN2007164289 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, ACC, concluded their first working session in Amman today.

Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim told the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY that four working papers were presented on means and fields of cooperation among ACC foreign ministers on the Arab and international arenas. He said that a special committee was formed to study the papers and come out with a joint paper to be discussed and endorsed during the second working session due to be held tonight.

Mr al-Qasim said that the working papers include cooperation in all fields foremost of which is reciprocal diplomatic representation. The papers also include unifying stands of the four ACC countries towards various issues especially on the American, European, African, and Soviet arenas.

The foreign minister said the four ACC countries' views toward the Palestinian issue were identical. He said the ACC countries fully support the Palestine Liberation Organization in its serious call to achieve a comprehensive settlement in the area. The four countries' views, Mr al-Qasim said, were also identical towards the Iraq-Iran conflict and the Lebanese crisis.

Endorse Joint Working Paper

JN2107054689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Amman—Foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] ended their meetings last night after endorsing in a closed session a joint working paper prepared by the drafting committee. Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, is expected to announce the outcome of the meetings in a news conference at noon today.

Following the final session, Al-Qasim said the endorsed joint working paper includes all the ideas contained in the four working papers presented by the ACC states. The most important points of this paper, he said, are: periodic meetings among the ACC foreign ministers; joint action on the international scene; exchanges of information and views on the various Arab, regional, and international issues; arrangement of diplomatic courses; support for research organs at the Foreign Ministries; exchanges of taking care of interests; gradual unification of diplomatic systems; and establishment of cooperation among ACC embassies and diplomatic missions at international organizations.

Al-Qasim on ACC Discussions

JN2107121689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Amman—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held a news conference at noon today in which he spoke about the results of the four meetings that the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] foreign ministers have held in Amman over the past 2 days. Al-Qasim said that the foreign ministers devoted their efforts to making coordination and cooperation among the ACC states a promotion of collective agreement and a means of joint Arab action within the comprehensive framework of the Arab League with the aim of serving the Arab nation's supreme interests.

Al-Qasim noted that the meetings resulted in general accord on the four working papers. Views were identical on the proposals for political and diplomatic cooperation. This was reflected in the agreement drafted by a special committee. He said the principles and points agreed upon constituted a mechanism for serious and effective work of the ACC.

The minister spoke about the points in the agreement on diplomatic cooperation and coordination, saying that it was agreed to hold four meetings annually for the foreign ministers and two other meetings for senior officials and experts. It was also agreed to adopt the method of contacts, consultations, and joint political and diplomatic movement as well as cooperation and coordination among embassies and foreign missions abroad.

Speaking about current Arab issues that were discussed during the ACC foreign ministers meeting, he said that the ministers discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian issue, making special allusion to the continuous Israeli attempts to undermine the political achievements of the Palestinian cause as a result of the positive, moderate, and responsible stands that the Palestinian leadership in the PLO has been adopting since last year's PNC session in Algiers. He said emphasis was placed on the stand adopted by the four ACC leaders in terms of supporting and backing the blessed and continuous Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied Palestinian territory, stressing the need to make available and continue support for the PLO in its capacity as the only side that is qualified to represent the Palestinian people and realize their legitimate rights over their national soil.

The minister added that the ministers voiced relief over the international stand on the Palestinian cause—a stand that has begun to reflect an increasing awareness of the Palestinian Arab rights, recalling in this regard statements by the summits of the EC summit and the industrialized states.

The minister also said that the ministers discussed the situation between Iraq and Iran and expressed their concern over the slow pace of efforts to reach a final solution to the Iraq-Iran conflict. He said: On this occasion, we call on the Iranian leadership to stop using stalling tactics, to respond to the UN secretary general's endeavors, and to move from the cease-fire to a comprehensive and just peace in order to serve the people's of the region, including Iran. They also called for speedy exchange of POW's between the two sides.

Speaking about the Lebanese problem, the foreign minister said that the ACC foreign ministers voiced their deep sorrow over the continuation of the Lebanese tragedy and declared anew the four countries' support for the Arab tripartite committee's efforts to establish a final solution for the Lebanese crisis, preserving Lebanon's unity and sovereignty.

U.S. Reportedly To 'Correct' Position

LD2007133289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1250 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Beirut, July 20 (KUNA)—Lebanese acting Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss Thursday urged the three Arab leaders entrusted with resolving Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war to speed up their efforts and humanitarian mission to help Lebanese people end fighting.

In a cable he sent to Saudi Arabian and Moroccan monarchs King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz and King Hassan II and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, members of the Arab task-group, Dr. al-Huss hoped that the three leaders would be able to accelerate their endeavours and make Lebanese desert arms and resort to political solutions "the only means of ending the ordeal."

Al-Huss' cable referred to the savage duels witnessed by Beirut's eastern and western sectors last night and said "innocents in Lebanon were facing threats of death every day."

"Any day or moment you spend in the search for an end to Lebanese sufferings, represents a valuable accomplishment on national and humanitarian levels," Dr. al-Huss told the leaders.

Meanwhile, sources of Lebanese rival parties today linked the postponement of King Fahd's planned visit to the United States to deterioration of security situation in Lebanon.

Diplomatic sources told KUNA that in the aftermath of the putting back of the Saudi monarch's trip to Washington, originally slated for July 27, the U.S. Administration is likely to correct its position towards resolving the Lebanese crisis.

The source expected Washington to offer more diplomatic backing to the three-man Arab committee. They cited that all American officials, namely President George Bush and his State Secretary James Baker, have repeatedly expressed support to the committee's efforts but made no substantive contribution to that end.

12 Killed, 95 Wounded in 20 Jul Violence

NC2107055689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Calm prevails along the combat lines of Beirut, the Southern Suburb, and the Mountain following a security flare-up last night involving artillery and rockets. There is a sense of anxiety after a frenzied night of violence that killed 12 persons and wounded 95, in addition to damage to property. [passage omitted]

Spanish Nationals Evacuated

NC2007120589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Western diplomatic sources in Beirut have reported that today the Spanish Embassy in Lebanon evacuated 34 Spanish nationals by way of Juniyah port because of the deteriorating security situation.

Operations, Helicopter Flights Reported in South

NC2107064589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] There is still tension in the western al-Biqa' areas adjacent to the occupied border strip. Last night, Israeli occupation forces fired illumination rounds over these areas and as far as Jazzin. Machinegun fire was heard in Tumat Niha. The firing, originating from the positions of the agent militias, was intermittent and lasted for 3 hours.

According to the national news agency, Israeli forces used heavy-caliber machineguns to comb valleys close to the villages of al-Mansurah and Majdal Zun. This was preceded by helicopter flights over the Bint Jubayl area.

The occupation forces dismantled an explosive charge attached to a mortar shell on the Bra'shit road. Another device exploded on the Sham'a road, hitting a troop carrier belonging to the militia of agent Antoine Lahd and injuring three elements. The militia acknowledged that operation.

Israeli Gunboats Reportedly Escort Ships

NC2107060689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Foreign news agencies have reported that Israeli gunboats escorted four ships carrying supplies from al-Naqurah to the eastern area's ports and safeguarded their approach to the ports which they entered on Wednesday evening. Among the ships, which carried vegetables and fruits, was a tanker carrying a quantity of gasoline and fuel oil.

There are reports that this escalation by the Lebanese Forces came in the wake of Israeli statements that Israel does not object to the arrival of FROG missiles in the eastern areas and the Israeli measure of escorting the ships carrying foodstuffs to the eastern areas.

Other press reports said that Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' has visited Israel these times since 14 March 1989.

Iraqi Ba'th Party Official Gunned Down in Sidon

NC2007121489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] According to security sources in Sidon, this morning gunmen in a vehicle opened fire with their machine guns on an official in the Iraqi Ba'th Party named 'Ali Qantar, killing him instantly.

Fijian UN Soldier Injured in Midnight Attack

NC2107101489 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel said that a Fijian soldier was injured last night when his post came under machine gun attack. He added that around midnight an unidentified armed group used machineguns to attack a Fijian checkpoint in al-Siddiqin village, 10 kms east of Tyre outside the occupied border strip.

Goksel added that a Fijian soldier was injured and evacuated by helicopter to al-Naqurah Hospital. He went on to say that the Fijian unit soldiers exchanged fire with the attackers for 20 minutes.

Sha'ban Lauds PLO-Lebanese Meeting in Tehran

LD1907040489 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Beirut, July 18, IRNA—Prominent Lebanese alim Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban today termed Sunday's [16 July] meeting in Tehran between Palestinian and Lebanese groups as a "natural response to intervention of foreign countries in Lebanon."

Sha'ban told IRNA after a meeting Iranian ambassador to Syria Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari in the northern port city of Tripoli that the Tehran meeting was "a positive step towards Islamic solidarity against foreign intervention in Lebanon."

Leaders of Lebanese and Palestinian groups met in Tehran Sunday to adopt a joint strategy to fight the Zionist regime and the Christian renegade Michel 'Awn's illegal government.

'Awn on Lebanese Forces' Role, FROG Missiles

NC2107071489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] In a statement to the AL-NAHAR newspaper published today, Prime Minister General 'Awn said that the Lebanese Forces have a role to play in the inter-Lebanese negotiations, a political plan, and the principles they defend regarding Lebanon's future. He said that the Lebanese Forces are in the Lebanese arena and are in harmony with the government policy vis-a-vis our goals, that is, the liberation of Lebanon and the restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. He said: There are no problems between us and the Lebanese Forces. We accept that they are part of Lebanon and have a right to participate in a solution. They represent an important viewpoint, he declared.

Regarding the FROG missiles, Gen 'Awn said that there is nothing new in the missile story. The FROG missiles, he said, are a weapon like any other weapon, he asked: Is it at all new that these missiles have a range longer than other weapons? He said that the missile affair is not a problem. The problem is the Syrian presence in Lebanon.

Syria Reportedly Asks for Repayment of Debts

NC2007152689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] According to political information received by the BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY, the Syrian leadership has approached Dr Salim al-Huss about the debts of the Army brigades in West Beirut, which amount to $25 million, incurred by the supply of these brigades with arms and ammunition, some vehicles, and troop carriers.

The Syrian leadership requested tht these debts be settled in 3 months. Al-Huss asked the Syrian leadership to wait until he is able to open the necessary credit at the Bank of Lebanon. He also asked that these debts be repaid in installments over a period of 5 years on the grounds that the state's Treasury cannot defray such an amount at present.

The information said that Damascus rejected Al-Huss' request and insisted that the debts be settled before the end of 1989.

Afghanistan

U.S. Official Waits To See Jailed American

BK2007165489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1644 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 20 (AFP)—A U.S. consular officer who is here to secure the release of detained photographer Tony O'Brien has waited five days without seeing him.

Renny T. Smith, from the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, was assured diplomatic access to Mr. O'Brien Thursday, but a meeting failed to come through. The Afghan Government did not explain why.

"I haven't seen him so far and I don't know when they will let him out, Ms Smith said, adding, "I hope they will let him out soon."

Ms Smith arrived here Sunday on her second visit since Mr. O'Brien was detained June 8 after travelling to Kabul without a visa with U.S.-backed mujahidin rebels fighting to oust the Soviet-backed Afghan Government.

The U.S. Embassy shut down temporarily ahead of the Soviet troop withdrawal February 15.

Ms Smith was summoned to the Foreign Ministry's offices Thursday, apparently prior to the meeting with Mr. O'Brien which fell through, but no one received her at the ministry and she was told to leave after a 20-minute wait.

Informed sources said the U.S. Government sent a telex message to the Kabul authorities Wednesday formally appealing for Mr. O'Brien to be set free.

The Afghan Government had called for such a letter, which it said was standard diplomatic procedure. The French and Italian Governments had sent similar messages through high-level envoys who came to Kabul last year to seek the release of their journalists.

The sources could not say when Ms Smith had been denied consular access to Mr. O'Brien for five days.

A native of Santa Fe, New Mexico, Mr. O'Brien was on assignment for the U.S. TIME-LIFE Group at the time of his capture.

The Afghan Government accepted a personal appeal for his freedom from Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and agreed to release him without trial.

Mr. O'Brien has met journalists here twice since his arrest. He has said that he was being treated well in prison.

Photographer Freed

BK2107093489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0926 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 21 (AFP)—The Afghan Government freed U.S. photo-journalist Tony O'Brien here Friday after keeping him in prison for six weeks for entering Afghanistan illegally.

Mr. O'Brien, 43, was handed over to U.S. Consular Officer Renny Smith at the Foreign Ministry Offices here.

"I would like to thank the people of Afghanistan, the American Government and I would like to tell my mother that I will see her soon," Mr. O'Brien told journalists here.

A native of Santa Fe, New Mexico, Mr. O'Brien was arrested on the outskirts of Kabul June 8 after he had travelled to Afghanistan from Pakistan with mujahidin rebels battling to oust the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

Sayyed Amin Meets UN Representatives

LD1807215489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, deputy prime minister, met today with the representative of UN Fund for Population Activities, the representative of UN Humanitarian and Economic Aid to Afghanistan, and the head of the UN Development Program in Kabul. Talks were conducted on organizing the World Food Organization activities, the transport system related to that organization, the strengthening of the Child and Mother Program, the setting up of a baby food factory, and the extention of the census project at the University of Kabul.

The deputy prime minister discussed the food shortage problems of the city of Kabul and other provinces of the country with the representatives of the agencies and asked for immediate aid from the UN and the agencies related to it.

The World Food Organization recently opened its office in Kabul and has commenced work.

Najibullah Congratulates Nicaragua on Anniversary

LD1907093489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0729 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 18, BAKHTAR—President Najibullah, has sent a congratulatory message to Managua addressed to Daniel Ortega, president of the Republic of Nicaragua on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Sandinist revolution of Nicaragua today.

The message while expressing cordial congratulations on the occasion has expressed solidarity of the people and government of Afghanistan with the people and Government of Nicaragua in their struggle for the ensurance of peace and defence of the gains of the July revolution, progress and welfare of the people of that country.

Najibullah Sends Greetings to Jaruzelski

LD2107060189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 20, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of Republic of Afghanistan (RA) and Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the RA have sent congratulatory messages to Warsaw addressed to Wojciech Jaruzelski president and V.M.F. Rakowski chairman of the Council of Ministers of that country on the occasion of 45th independence anniversary of Poland.

The messages while expressing sincere congratulations, stated that the existing friendly relations between the RA and People's Republic of Poland will be further expanded in the interests of peace, friendship and international cooperation.

Hatif Meets Soviet Trade Union Delegation

LD1807222589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] 'Abdul Rahim Hatif, vice president and president of National Front of Afghanistan, met yesterday in his office with the delegation of the Soviet Council of Trade Union. Talks were conducted on the political-military situation of the country, the value of the national reconciliation policy, and the interference of Pakistan in the internal affairs of our country.

The Soviet trade union delegation is visiting our country at the invitation of the Central Council of the Trade Unions of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Education Minister 'Sacked' by Najibullah

BK2007141489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1407 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 20 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah has sacked his education minister and replaced him with a non-party academic after scathing criticism of his government's education policies.

Education Minister Esma'il Danesh was dismissed late Wednesday and replaced by Mehr Muhammad 'Azizi, a Kabul University teacher of medicine, official sources said here Thursday.

No reason was officially cited for the change, but it was widely believed to be the first step in a clean-up of the education system following unprecedented criticism of the government's education policies on television last month.

In four nightly programmes, Kabul University and Polytechnic teachers criticised the government for low wages, its choice of nominations for foreign scholarships, lack of choice in university rectors and even leaky roofs in faculty classrooms.

In his reply on television, Mr Najibullah had conceded there were faults in the education system and blamed the ministry for not taking corrective action.

Mr Danesh's replacement is not a member of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

He was appointed in a cabinet reshuffle that followed the Soviet troop withdrawal February 15. The reshuffle was designed to bring into the government "competent" people the PDPA could trust.

Dismissal Due to 'Teacher Unrest'

BK2007035589 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 20 Jul 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] In Afghanistan, the minister for higher education, Esma'il Danesh, has been sacked. Although no official reason has been given, his dismissal comes at a time of considerable teacher unrest and dissatisfaction in the country's troubled education system. (Lee Disset) reports from Kabul.

[Begin recording] Observers believe that his departure may be the start of wide-ranging changes in the higher education system, moves to arrest growing dissatisfaction among teachers and the exodus of qualified people to neighboring Pakistan. Last month, President Najibullah met with a large number of university and polytechnic teachers. The meeting was one of the frankest public exchanges ever aired here. It was widely discussed in the cities. Teachers criticized the ruling party in what they saw as major shortcomings in the education system. The president promised to improve the situation. This included among other things, provision of housing, distribution of scholarships according to merit, resources for research and better financial rewards to allow teachers to cope with Kabul's sharp price increases and recurrent shortages. On a political level, teachers wanted to elect their university authorities instead of accepting individuals picked by the ruling party and government. This was part of a wider concern amidst the need for more democratic expression. Some observers says Mr Danesh's departure will be followed by a sweep of the existing university administration. Its [words indistinct] will be welcomed by the teachers, who have been privately criticizing the government's tardiness in meeting its promises. [end recording]

Replacement Appointed

LD1907171389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] On the proposal of the Council of Minisers and approval of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, professor Dr. Mehr Muhammad 'Azizi has been appointed as minister of higher and vocational education.

Mujahidin Reported Active in Khowst, Paktia

BK1907153589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have captured three security posts of the Kabul regime in the (Hitamgah) area of Khowst. In this operation 30 soldiers of the Kabul regime were killed and another 25 injured. In another operation the mujahidin killed four KHAD [secret police] personnel on Qondus Road in the (Shahr Khamadipa) area. The mujahidin have also increased pressure on the Gardeyz front. They shot down four helicopters that were trying to land at Gardeyz Airport in Paktia Province.

Operations Near Khowst

BK1907165489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1637 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Islamabad, July 19 (AFP)—The Afghan mujahidin have intensified operations around the eastern city of Khowst, claiming Wednesday to have captured there 850 soldiers, 30 officers and a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

Several mujahidin groups launched a joint attack last Sunday on Domindah Brigade Headquarters, located some 15 kilometers (nine miles) west of Khowst, killing 20 soldiers, the pro-resietance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said.

The guerillas have captured six strategically important military posts around the brigade, and three others the following day, it added. Five mujahidin were killed and 15 wounded during attacks on Monday.

The mujahidin claimed to have cut roads linking Khowst to the provincial capital Gardeyz, some 80 kilometers (50 miles) further west, and between Gardez and Kabul, 110 kilometers (68 miles) north.

Meanwhile, another pro-resistance news agency, the AFGHAN MEDIA RESOURCES CENTER (AMRC), said that over the past two weeks at least 18 Soviet-made Scud missiles were fired by Afghan troops from Kabul, targetting the headquarters of the mujahidin interim government in Paktia Province. AMRC said that seven mujahidin were injured in the missile attacks.

More 'Extremists' Rockets Hit Kabul 19 Jul

LD1907175289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Pakistan-backed criminal extremists once again revealed their shameful face today by committing another anti-Islamic and inhuman crime. BAKHTAR's military section reports that the criminals fired four ground-to-ground rockets at Kabul, one of which hit a residence, martyring an innocent child and wounding another one. The other three rockets landed in a nonresidential area and caused no loss of life or property.

Missiles Fired at Kabul

LD2007150289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] The treacherous extremists supported by Pakistan today committed another unforgivable and shocking crime against our Muslim people by launching four surface-to-surface missiles on the residential areas of Kabul.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that as a result of the firing of these missiles by criminal extremists, 1 of our compatriots was martyred and 11 others—including women and children—were wounded. Those injured were quickly taken to the hospital where they are being treated.

As a result of these missiles our compatriots suffered financial losses.

Attempted Bombing in Kabul Reportedly Foiled

LD2007151689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Ministry of State Security personnel discovered and prevented two evil and satanic conspiracies by the extremists who have sold out to Pakistan.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that the criminal extremists—who oppose peace and tranquillity for our compatriots—tried again today to detonate explosives in a crowded area of Kabul. These explosives had been placed in two boxes. This inhuman and anti-Islamic conspiracy by the subversive extremists was discovered in time and foiled as a result of the total cooperation by the peace-loving people of Kabul.

Suspected Rebel Rocket Hits Kabul Kindergarten

BK2007161189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1539 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 20 (AFP)—A rocket suspected to have been fired by mujahidin guerrillas slammed into a kindergarten here Thursday, extensively damaging two dormitories evacuated just minutes earlier.

No children were hurt in the blast which shattered glass window panes, destroyed furniture and sent shrapnel flying into children's cradles.

Teachers at the Peace Kindergarten in Kabul's Micro Rayan District said they had moved children from the two dormitories after hearing a rocket hit a neighbouring area.

"We were all shaken," said Principal Safiya. "Some children panicked and started crying, some fainted, some started vomiting."

Some 1,000 children attend the kindergarten, which also serves as a day-care center for children aged between three months and three years, she said.

Micro Rayan has been a favourite target of guerrilla rocket attacks because of the large number of members of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) who live in Soviet-built apartment blocks there, but Peace Kindergarten had never been hit before.

Four rockets landed in the area Wednesday killing one civilian and wounding two others, witnesses said.

In Islamabad, mujahidin sources said heavy fighting was reported Thursday around the Samar Kheyl garrison near Jalalabad. The mujahidin said they repulsed the attack on the garrison city, which they said they had retaken July 13.

The pro-resistance AFGHAN MEDIA RESOURCE CENTER reported Thursday that 23 mujahidin were killed and several injured Monday in a bomb and artillery attack in Shakardara District some 20 kilometers (12 miles) north of Kabul.

Mujahidin forces shot down an Afghan aircraft bombing positions in Sholgar District in northern Balkh Province, the center said, adding that seven guerrillas were killed in the attack.

Mujahidin rebels fighting to topple the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah have stepped up rocketing of the capital in recent weeks, killing more than 60 people in the past 14 days. The rockets used are mostly Egyptian-made Sacker-20's which have a range of up to 40 kilometers (25 miles), according to the government.

Rebels Reportedly Enter Suburbs of Jalalabad

BK2007154189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Reports say that the Afghan mujahidin, after capturing the security post of Pol-e Siracha and the bridge there, have entered the suburbs of Jalalabad. AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY reported that the mujahidin carried out attacks on military targets at Imandat, capturing six tanks and a heavy vehicle.

In another operation against the Kabul regime, the mujahidin carried out rocket attacks on military installations in Qandahar City, killing 15 soldiers and destroying 12 Army buildings.

Tensions Rising Between Rival Mujahidin Groups

BK2007095189 Hong Kong AFP in English 0912 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Islamabad, July 20 (AFP)—Tension between two of the main mujahidin groups has mounted since 30 guerrillas were killed in internicine clashes 10 days ago during an ambush in northeastern Afghanistan.

Most of the men killed were under the renowned Field Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, called the "Lion of Panjsher," who is affiliated with the relatively moderate Moslem faction Jamiat-e Eslami.

In a statement Thursday, Jamiat-e Eslami accused the radical Moslem fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar of "having premediated this unprecedented crime," while "the fight for the liberation of Afghanistan entered a crucial phase."

"We cannot believe that it was a local skirmish, as the Hekmatyar party says," said Jamiat. Mr. Hekmatyar is the foreign minister in the interim government set up by the resistance in Pakistan this year.

"Without the encouragement and the support of the Hezb-e Eslami in Peshawar," the northwestern Pakistani city where the mujahidin groups have their headquarters, "this incident could not have taken place in a region where Jamiat-e-Eslami constitutes the dominant force."

The 30 men, including five commanders and a local political figure, were killed on July 9 near Farkhar in the Afghan province of Takhar following a military meeting presided by Mr. Mas'ud, who earned his reputation during his campaigns against Soviet troops.

The Jamiat guerrillas were returning to their respective sectors when they fell into an ambush laid by Commander Sayyed Jamal of Hezb-e Eslami, several sources have said. Mr. Jamal and his men killed five guerrillas on the spot and took 25 others prisoner, "executing" them the next day, Mr. Mas'ud's brother Ahmad Zia said.

The incident prompted a strong reaction from the U.S. Government, which gives military aid to the resistance. The U.S. State Department deplored Monday the "tragic and brutal act," saying it could "only play into the hands of the enemies of a free Afghanistan" and "affect the progress of the campaign."

Washington urged the mujahidin "to focus on the vital work of improving unity and cooperation," but added that its commitment to the rebels was "unchanged."

Hezb-e-Eslami has confirmed that the incident took place, but has called it a "private affair" and not a "confrontation between parties". A spokesman for the group said some of its men were killed recently in the region by Jamiat fighters.

The president of the interim government, Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, denounced the clash upon his return from a pilgrimage to Mecca. He also criticized Mr. Hekmatyar, saying he had recently made "hundreds" of statements which "created rivalry and confusion" among the mujahidin parties.

Sources close to Hezb-e Eslami said Mr. Hekmatyar, seen as an anti-Western leader, would be going to the United States soon.

25 'Extremists' Killed in Internecine Fighting

LD1907193689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] The heavy clashes which began recently in some parts of Helmand Province between the extremists groups of Rabbani and Muhammadi, continue intensively still.

The BIA military section reports that as a result of these clashes which have taken place in some regions of Nahr-e Saraj and Nowzad, 25 persons from both hostile groups have been killed and (?30) others injured.

Red Cross To Visit Soviet POW's

BK2007143789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] The Afghan interim government has agreed in principle to allow international teams of the Red Cross to visit the liberated areas in Afghanistan to meet with Soviet prisoners of war [POW's]. AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY, citing reliable sources, said that a Soviet delegation will also be allowed to visit along with the Red Cross teams.

Citizens Hold Protest Rally at Pakistani Embassy

LD1607175489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Thousands of Kabul citizens today rallied in front of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul and handed over protest notes to that embassy voicing their strongest protests at the criminal and inhumane actions of the Pakistani militarists and extremists linked to them who, by organizing explosions and launching missiles, martyr our compatriots.

The non-Muslim and criminal extremists, under the orders of the Pakistani militarists, committed a crime yesterday at (Jada-e Nader) Pashtun, martyring several of our compatriots and injuring others. The military section of BAKHTAR reports that the protesters demanded that the Pakistani Government cease interfering in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan. Otherwise, the Afghan people will demand that the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Homeland utilize every available possibility and reservation against the Pakistani militarists and their linked extremists who do not want peace to be established in Afghanistan.

Najibullah Meets Elders of Kabul Province

LD1907194489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Today at the Delkosha Palace of the Presidency, Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met the elders and representatives of the people of Mir Bacheh Kowt, Qara Bagh, Shakar Dareh, Estalef, and Kalakan regions [of Kabul Province].

At this meeting Esteemed Najibullah spoke about the present situation in the country and explained the outstanding role of the northern regions' great figures during the history in taking a worthy and patriotic role in the liberating struggles. He also specified the duties of the elders and chiefs of the above regions under the present circumstances of the country to restore peace and implement the policy of national reconciliation.

The elders and representatives of the above regions then expressed their views on various local issues in connection to the restoration of peace and security and the prevention of fighting and bloodshed. They promised the cooperation of their people with the government in the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation, ending the war, and restoring peace and security.

Defense Minister Inspects Units at Pol-e Charkhi

LD2107061189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 20, BAKHTAR—General Shahnawaz Tanay, minister of defence of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) inspected the armoured carrier units concentrated in the Pol-e Charkhi here today and inspected combat readiness, armament and technique of different detachments of the units and gave institutions for the ever further up-grading of the level of combat capabilities.

Also, Tanay, participated in a gathering of the personnel of the units and spoke on the bravery of the armoured carrier units in the repulsion of the enemy's attacks in different parts of the country.

Later, commander of the units on behalf of his colleagues expressed confident that the units will do their best for the defence of the country and realisation of the policy of national reconciliation in the RA.

'Ulumi Outlines Military, Political Situation

LD1907081389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 18, BAKHTAR—At present more than two third of the internal commanders who hear the peace voice of their estranged countrymen, have established contacts with the state authority and this process continues successfully.

This was said by Major General 'Abdul Haq 'Ulumi, member of the Central Committee of the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] and secretary of the Supreme Defence Council of the country in an interview covered by daily PAYAM, organ of the Central Committee of the PDPA.

Replying to a question in connection with the general military and political situation of the country General Ulumi said that in spite of the intensification of the criminal efforts of the enemy in the border areas with Pakistan, the military-political situation of the country is improving and new political thinking takes shape within the considerable part of the opposition. Giving a negative response to the Pakistani militarists and joining to the process of national reconciliation by a great number of the opposition is a great victory of the popular state. For instance, the cease fire announced by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan during 'Id al-Adha was observed generally by the opposition forces in other parts of the country, except in the border areas with Pakistan.

The fact, 'Ulumi added, is that the national reconciliation policy has opened its way to the hearts of the people and the armed extremists are isolated from the masses of the people by each passing day.

In his interview General 'Ulumi went on to say that although the extremists made every efforts during 'Id days to disturb the peaceful life of our compatriots in some parts of the country, the personnel of the Armed Forces equipped with modern weapons and having high combat morale gave jaw-breaking responses to the enemy and their foreign patrons.

He added that recently the extremists wanted to impose economical blockade upon the citizens of Kabul but the evil plots of the extremists were foiled by the citizens of Parwan, Kapisa, Lowgar, [words indistinct].

General 'Ulumi referred to the latest statement of the High Command of the Armed Forces of the country which stresses that the enemy of the people of Afghanistan should know that Afghanistan has the ability to give a counter response to the enemy and rockets of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan can reach to the specific targets in Pakistan.

In response to the question referring to the military situation in Nangarhar, Qandahar, Khowst and around Kabul city General 'Ulumi said: The detachments of the Armed Forces based in Nangarhar province have persistently inflicted heavy blows upon the foreign aggressors and meanwhile they have strengthened their positions in that province.

In Qandahar, General 'Ulumi said further, during 'Id days the extremists fired rockets against Qandahar city. The purpose of such attacks was to prevent people to come to Qandahar city to participate in the 'Id prayer. But fortunately they could not realize [words indistinct] of Chaman along the border, the enemy deployed its tanks, artillery and paratroopers and wants to launch an offensive against Qandahar. If such aggression is put into practice the consequences would be nothing else but heavy casualties for the Pakistani aggressors. The Armed Forces based in Qandahar can repel such an attack very successfully.

The brave defenders of Khowst, Ulumi went on to say, have heriocally defended Khowst against the enemy and have repelled aggressions of the enemy in that grand district as well.

In regard to the defence of Kabul General 'Ulumi assured the Kabul citizens that always the mass attack of the enemy on Kabul city will be foiled. Detachments of the security belt of Kabul defend bravely their positions and inflict heavy blows upon the enemy as well.

General 'Ulumi, at the end of his interview, demanded from the people of Afghanistan to strengthen ranks of the Armed Forces and defend their ancestral homeland unitedly against the foreign aggression.

India

Commerce Minister Views U.S. Trade Situation

BK2007074389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] India has hoped that better sense will prevail upon the United States Government and it will not take any action that could affect Indo-U.S. trade.

The commerce minister, Mr Dinesh Singh, asserted in the Rajya Sabha today that India will not participate in any negotiations under threat of retaliation. The minister was responding to members apprehensions about possible repercussions of the recent U.S. decision under its trade act Super 301, during the question hour.

Defense Minister Pant Visits Washington

Assesses Outcome of Talks

BK0107090889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has asserted that India will not accept any discriminatory treatment, either in nuclear nonproliferation or in missile technology. Talking to newsmen in Washington last night at the

end of his week-long official visit to the United States, the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, said the missile technology control regime seeking to prevent the proliferation of missile technology is discriminatory to countries like India. Mr Pant was replying to the American criticism on the successful launch of [intermediate range surface-to-surface] Agni missile. He said during his talks with the U.S. leaders, he underlined that Agni was a technology demonstration of the country's indigenous effort. He asserted that India has the right to develop technology. The country cannot be complacent in the matter of defense preparedness.

Mr Pant expressed his confidence technology transfer in the fields of defense from the United States to India will progress on a faster pace in future. He summed up his talks with the vice president, Mr Dan Quayle; the defense secretary, Mr Richard Cheney; and other U.S. officials and said the items for technology transfer discussed with American leaders covered the Light Combat Aircraft—LCA—program and underwater technology.

The defense minister said the other topics discussed between him and the U.S. President's national security adviser, Mr Brent Scowcraft, were supply of F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan, American reaction to Agni, and Sri Lanka.

He said the Americans appreciated the complexity of the situation in Sri Lanka. Mr Pant described President Premadasa's unilateral call for the withdrawal of PKF [Peacekeeping Force] by the 29th of this month as unrealistic. He said the government is in continuous consultation with the Sri Lankan Government and is withdrawing the PKF in stages and phases, depending upon the situation on the ground.

Comments on 'Philosophy of Defense'

BK0207075689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 2 Jul 89

[Text] India has asserted that it does not intend to assume the role of the regional policeman. Speaking on the philosophy of Indian defense at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, United States last night, the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, said India's action in Sri Lanka and the Maldives were in response to calls by neighbors in distress. He said the role of Indian Armed Forces was strictly defensive and meant to safeguard the autonomy of the country's decision making and development process. Mr Pant said it has to be ensured that turbulence in other countries does not spill over into India.

The defense minister made it clear that India does not subscribe to the doctrine of nuclear deterrence, but it just cannot afford to overlook the fact that three major nuclear powers operate in its neighborhood. Mr Pant said, in addition, Pakistan is also engaged in a nuclear weapons program. He said having demonstrated its nuclear capability, India has exercised enormous restraint in not producing a nuclear arsenal. He said that the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has proposed a 3-phased program of elimination of nuclear weapons. Mr Pant said India's defense expenditure is one of the lowest in the world, including its immediate neighbors. The defense minister reiterated India's commitment to nonalignment and peaceful coexistence, as these are vital components of its foreign policy.

Commentator Views Visit

BK3006110789 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Sudhakar Nayyar commentary]

[Text] The on-going visit of the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, to the United States has signaled a new chapter in India-U.S. relations to give a boost to defense cooperation. Though the week-long visit comes against the backdrop of the trade controversy which is becoming an irritant in bilateral relations, the friendly ties have matured to a political-military dialogue. Mr Pant's visit from 25 June is the first by an Indian defense minister in 2 decades and is seen as an excellent opportunity for putting issues relations to bilateral and regional matters in a proper perspective. Expectedly, the proposed $1.4 billion dollar sale of 60 F-16 aircraft to Pakistan and the peaceful purposes of the launching of the intermediate range ballistic missile Agni also figured prominently during Mr Pant's talks with the host of American leaders. The U.S. leaders, included the vice president, Mr Dan Quayle; the secretary of state, James Baker; the defense secretary, Mr Richard Cheney; and the national security adviser, Mr Brent Scowcroft.

During his talks, Mr Pant is understood to have told the American leaders that induction of sophisticated weapons in Pakistan would give rise to unnecessary tension in the region at a time when New Delhi and Islamabad are trying to sort out their outstanding problems bilaterally. Pakistan already has 40 F-16's in its Air Force. India's desire to have friendly relations with all its neighbors was also understood during the discussion. Responding to U.S. apprehensions regarding the test flight of the Agni missile, Mr Pant has stressed that it was only a technology demonstrator to prove the country's capability in the sophisticated missile technology. Defense experts in New Delhi feel that there can be no better forum to sort out specific issues in regard to defense cooperation than the 2-day high-level talks in Washington on 29 and 30 June.

Mr Pant's visit confirms the belief that the United States is ready to boost its defense cooperation with India, especially in the field of defense technology transfer. A point to be noted in this regard is that for the first time the U.S. has shown to India its highly classified military facilities and new generation weapons systems during the visit of the defense minister. What has been shown to the delegation are the crown jewels in the U.S. weaponry unknown even to American Army officers. The Indian

delegation's 3-day visit to the American defense establishments included a trip to the headquarters of the U.S. Space Command and North American Air Defense Command at Colorado Springs. The delegation also visited the Peterson Air Force Base and the Air Force Academy. The delegation included the defense secretary, the defense minister's scientific adviser, Dr V.S. Arunachalam; and the three vice chiefs of the defense establishment. The presence of Dr Arunachalam, who has been handling much of the procurement of defense equipment, in the delegation indicates efforts being made to accelerate on-going bilateral cooperation in the development of the country's light combat aircraft—LCA. The visit is expected to lead to the thrashing out of certain finer details of co-development and laboratory testing facilities for many LCA components.

The keenness of the U.S. in enlarging defense cooperation could be gauged from the fact that Washington is willing to sell certain types of missiles, radar related equipment, and software systems to the Armed Forces. One of these items include the sophisticated air combat maneuverability instrumentation system for the country's Air Force.

The demand by the Sri Lankan President, Mr Premadasa, for the recall of the Indian Peacekeeping Force and the current impasse regarding the trade treaty between India and Nepal was also touched upon by Mr Pant during his discussion. American officials have also noted with satisfaction that India and Pakistan were able to sign an agreement regarding non-attack on each other's nuclear facility. Mr Pant's visit gives credence to the fact that there is greater rapport between India and the U.S. now in the defense sector. Defense cooperation is once again slowly becoming an important feature of bilateral relations after a gap of over 2 decades when the U.S. suspended military aid to India during the India-Pakistan war in 1965.

Editorial on Trip's Outcome

BK1407105989 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 6 Jul 89 p 11

[Editorial: "Positive Response From Washington"]

[Text] It may be a little early to predict defence cooperation between India and the United States on a wide scale following Defence Minister K.C. Pant's American visit, but the two countries certainly have a better appreciation of each other's security perceptions. The visit was, as a US official described it, a nice effort to keep things on an even track after all the bumps. The two recent bumps that threatened to shake Indo-American ties were India's test-firing of the Agni missile, and Washington's naming India, together with Japan and Brazil, in connection with the Super 301. Hopefully, the road ahead will be smooth. At least the schedule would suggest so. In addition to the projected visit by the Indian Army chief to the US, delegations from New Delhi's National Defence College and the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis will attend a seminar that the American National Defence University plans to organise in September. The exchanges of views that took place during Mr Pant's talks in the US and which the defence experts will have in September are likely to add a new dimension to Indo-American relations. The defence views from Washington and New Delhi hardly ever converged in the past. Not that they are identical today, but there appears to be less of suspicion clouding their perceptions.

One reason for this could be the lowering of Western mistrust of the Soviet Union. There have been unconfirmed reports that the West might not rigorously apply the COCOM [Coordinating Committee] restrictions to any technology transfer that may ultimately have the socialist bloc as the destination. Washington should also increasingly find it untenable to treat India as a "concealed" socialist country, if for nothing else, then at least for economic reasons. It would appear that the discussion involving the US Northrop Aviation Corporation's phasing out of the F-5 fighter falls within this sphere. Whether a deal would be struck for the Indian purchase of the surplus inventory of tools to manufacture F-5s is not known yet. But the proposal itself shows a certain willingness of the US to cooperate with India in the field of defence. The LCA [Light Combat Aircraft] project is by now well known and proceeding apace. The Indian defence team also discussed the transfer of submarine technology as well as fly-by-wire technology for the LCA. Much will depend on US assessment of India's ability to absorb superior technology and New Delhi's reliability as a user that protects such knowledge from leakage or piracy. Mr Pant has found the US response positive. Washington may have finally reckoned that defence relationship ensures greater leverage and persuasive ability.

PRC 'Pro-Democracy' Balloon Discovered

BK2107054889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0530 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] New Delhi, July 21 (AFP) - Authorities in north India have found a balloon carrying Chinese pro-democracy pamphlets urging Chinese people to battle for their rights, THE STATESMAN newspaper reported Friday.

The weather balloon containing three posters and two pictures drifted into northern Haryana State's Rohtak district recently, THE STATESMAN said, adding that the writings were in support of May's pro-democracy protests in China which Beijing supressed last month.

"Soldiers and people together struggle for democracy," read one pamphlet which carried a picture showing soldiers receiving drinks from student demonstrators who had occupied Tiananmen Square for three weeks.

None of the pamphlets referred to the bloody June 4 military action that left hundreds dead, leading Indian scholars to believe that the balloon was launched before China ordered the crackdown, the daily quoted unnamed experts as saying.

The scholars said it was probably meant to land in Chinese-controlled Tibet where strict censorship had blocked off news of the Chinese students' unrest and the subsequent violence in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

"With both hands raised very high, with smiling faces full of confidence, in China under the shining sun of May month, all ice, cold and snow are melted, the sufferings and tortures are are gone, the past oppression and fear are completely vanquished by the brave students now, and the earth roaring with thunders, and the people from all directions run to Tiananmen Sqaure with the slogan 'Down with special privileges'," another pamphlet read.

The intercepted posters were written in Chinese and have been translated into English by the head of Delhi University's Department of Chinese and Japanese Studies, Huang I-shu, the respected daily said.

Haryana's opposition Janata Dal (or people's group) leader O.P. Chautala has demanded the resignation of Federal Home Minister Buta Singh on the grounds that the Chinese balloon crossing into India amounted to a "security breach", it added.

India has neither condemned the June military action in Tiananmen Square nor supported the Beijing regime for ordering the crackdown which triggered international condemnation of China.

Assassination Attempt on Tamil Leader Denied

BK2007164289 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] The Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] has denied reports that there was a bomb attack on Mr Varadraja Perumal, chief minister of the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka yesterday. In a press release issued in Madras today, the IPKF said no such incident of a bomb attack took place.

Talks Offered on Timing of IPKF Withdrawal

BK2007085889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] India has again reiterated its readiness to discuss with Sri Lanka the schedule for the withdrawal of the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] from the island nation. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, told the Lok Sabha during the question time today that the government will handle the matter in a mature manner with patience and understanding. He expressed the hope that the Sri Lankan foreign minister will come to New Delhi for talks as agreed to by him earlier during his Harare meeting with the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao.

He regretted that President Premadasa has elected to depart from the policies of his predecessor and had even announced a date for the pullout of the PKF at a public meeting, which is unrealistic. The minister pointed out that the withdrawal of the Peacekeeping Force without fulfilling the basic objectives of the India-Sri Lankan agreement can give rise to grave and sensitive developments that could have a bearing on India's national security.

Tamil Parties on Killings; Envoy Meets Gandhi

BK1907161089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] The Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization—TELO—and Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front—ENDLF—of Sri Lanka have alleged that the spate of killings of Tamil leaders in Colombo was a result of a deal between the island government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam].

In separate statements issued in Madras today, the parties said the assassination of Amirthalingam and other leaders was aimed at creating a sense of helplessness among the Tamils in the island.

Reports from Colombo say 13 persons have been killed and 83 persons injured, including a minister, in the violence by suspected JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] extremists since last night.

The Indian high commissioner to Sri Lanka, Mr L.L. Mehrotra, called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today and gave a detailed brief on the developing situation in Sri Lanka.

The External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that India is in the process of taking a decision on the phased withdrawal of the peacekeeping force from Sri Lanka as Colombo has not yet responded to the proposal for talks. But, he said, India is still willing to have talks with Sri Lanka on this.

India-Pakistan Joint News Release

BK1907155689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] India and Pakistan today took a major stride in improving their relations by deciding on a number of concrete steps to ease visa and travel restrictions and to increase cooperation in the fields of trade, planning, agriculture, industry and culture. The decisions were announced in a joint press release issued in Islamabad at the end of the third meeting of the Indo-Pakistan Joint

Commission. It was co-chaired by the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and the Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

The two countries also signed a 3-year cultural protocol providing fellowships to students in either country, exchange of musicians, artists and holding of exhibitions on arts and craft.

Arms, Ammunition Seized From Pakistani Intruders
BK0507070689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] In Rajasthan, the Border Security Force seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition from four Pakistani intruders who were trying to sneak into the country in the Raisinghnagar sector on the India-Pakistan border last Monday [3 July]. The intruders, however, managed to escape after an hour-long shootout with the Border Security Force personnel. According to PTI, the intruders left behind about 60 kg of gunpowder, 30 cartridges of AK-45 [as heard] assault rifles, and 3 pistol magazines.

Pant in Canada Views Defense Expenditures
BK0407094789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has criticized the industrialized nations for the growing arms expenditure in the world. He said these nations have contributed significantly to the rise in the defense expenditure in developing countries by supplying most of the arms and superimposing their military rivalry in the turbulent areas. Giving a lecture on international transformation at the Jawaharlal Nehru centenary celebrations organized by the India-Canada Association in Montreal, the defense minister called for a cooperative international order instead of a conflictual relationship between developing and developed countries to ensure lasting peace in the world. Mr Pant said the rewards of a cooperative approach and the establishment of a new world order were equally limitless.

He said India has been forced into avoidable defense expenditure by the proliferation and deployment of nuclear weapons and missiles around the country and the continued flow of the sophisticated arms into its neighborhood.

Meeting With USSR on Science, Technology Ends
BK0507071689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] India and the Soviet Union are to further strengthen priorities of cooperation in the fields of science and technology. This was decided at the recently concluded meeting in Moscow. At the Indo-Soviet council meeting on the implementation and coordination of a complex long-term program in these fields, both the delegations worked out ways to determine priorities of cooperation. The leader of the Indian delegation, Professor C.N.R. Rao, described the meeting as very useful.

Bomb Blast in Srinagar 'Fourth in Two Days'
BK2107102489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1015 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] New Delhi, July 21 (AFP)—A bomb exploded near a tourist reception center in Srinagar on Friday, hours before the scheduled start of a strike to protest alleged police excesses, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the early morning blast in the summer capital of northern Jammu and Kashmir State, but an empty state transport bus parked nearby was heavily damaged, the agency said.

The blast was the fourth in Srinagar in two days.

Business in the city was brought to a virtual halt Friday as shops downed shutters in observance of the strike call by a students' federation which also alleged "indiscriminate police arrests."

Paramilitary troops have been patrolling towns in the Kashmir Valley, a well known mountain tourist resort for foreigners, since an attack on a paramilitary post July 13 by Moslem activists left three dead.

Kashmir is India's only Moslem-majority state.

Terrorist Violence Kills 13 in Punjab 20 Jul
BK2107045889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] In Punjab, 13 people, including two terrorists, were killed in separate incidents of terrorist activity last night. According to an official spokesman, terrorists struck in village Pakhi in Ajnala area of Amritsar District, killing five members of a family. The security forces attracted by the gunshots chased the culprits and in the ensuing encounter, one terrorist was killed, while three managed to escape. One AK-47 rifle and some ammunition were recovered from the killed terrorist. In another incident in the district, two members of a family were shot dead by terrorists in village Lokka in Patti area.

In Jullundur District, two terrorists attacked a house in village Kangraiyan. When the inmates resisted, terrorists opened fire and killed one person.

One hardcore terrorist, identified as Rajinder Singh, was killed in an encounter with security forces in Moga subdivision of Faridkot District last night. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from the site of the encounter.

In Ferozepore District, two members of the security forces were killed when a patrol party was ambushed near Daulawala Canal bridge. In another incident in the district, terrorists shot dead a farmer in Ghalkhurd area.

Home Minister on Terrorism, Punjab Elections

BK0307150189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has said the center is giving top priority to deal with the problem of terrorism. Talking to newsmen in Jullundur today, he said that terrorism can only be dealt with a strong hand.

Mr Buta Singh said that the center accepts the Punjab accord signed between the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and late Sant Harchand Singh Longowal as the basis for solving the Punjab problem. He added that cooperation among the parties and the state government was needed for this purpose. The home minister asked the Akalis [political party members] to isolate terrorists and help restore peace in the state.

Mr Buta Singh said parliamentary elections in Punjab will be held along with the general elections. The assembly and panchayat [village council] elections in the state will be held as soon as conducive situation is created.

Parliamentary Proceedings Stalled by Opposition

BK2007162089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Uproarious and unruly scenes were witnessed in both houses of parliament today resulting in adjournment several times. Opposition members obstructed the proceedings for the second day today by shouting and raising slogans on the issue of the CAG [Comptroller and Auditor General] report on the Bofors deal. Soon after the question hour in both houses trouble started as opposition members indulged in shouting and raising slogans over the issue. This led to the unprecedented adjournment of both houses.

The Lok Sabha was adjourned for varying durations on as many as eight occasions and the Rajya Sabha five times. The presiding officers of both houses made every effort to conduct the listed business, but in vain. The sitting of the Lok Sabha was even extended by 2 hours. When it was extended for 1 hour initially it sparked off trouble with an opposition member snatching away the microphone of the presiding officer and snapping its wires. When the trouble started in the Lok Sabha soon after the question hour, the speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, told the members that a discussion on the subject has already been allowed and they can put forward their views during the debate. This did not deter the opposition members and some of them walked into the well of the house and vehemently started arguing with the speaker.

Mr Jakhar admonished the opposition members for their unruly behavior and said that he is pained to see the Opposition trying to murder democracy. He called upon them to maintain the dignity and the decorum of the house. He told the opposition members that he is prepared to admit a no-confidence motion if they bring forward the same. He deplored the unruly behavior of the opposition before adjourning the house for the first time during the pre-lunch session. [passage omitted]

The leader of the house in the Rajya Sabha, Mr Shiv Shanker, has said it is indeed a matter of anguish and sorrow that the opposition parties have deliberately and maliciously violated parliamentary norms and repeatedly defied the directions of the Chair. The issue on which the Opposition had been raising slogans in the house for the resignation of the government is one on which the government has expressed its readiness to discuss without any loss of time.

In a statement, Mr Shiv Shanker said it is indeed unfortunate that instead of discussing this issue, the opposition only indulged in slogan-mongering, reducing the entire parliamentary proceedings to a farce. The statement said that the government offered a discussion on the CAG's report on Bofors both yesterday and today. The government is confident that it would demonstrate to the nation during the discussion that it had procured the best weapon system at the lowest price. There could have been no better choice of a medium gun for ensuring the country's security.

The statement further pointed out that the links of certain sections of the opposition with those indulging in terrorism in Punjab have come to light. The Andhra Pradesh government has been exposed about the supply of rice, and the unprincipled efforts of the Janata Dal to prevent the launching of the [medium range surface-to-surface missile] Agni and subvert the country's missile development program had been exposed. The statement underlined that the opposition parties have now resorted to diversionary and unparliamentary tactics to cover up their misdeeds. The statement described the opposition behavior in the house as one of the darkest chapters in the history of our parliamentary democracy. It said the opposition parties had thrown all norms and parliamentary decorum overboard in not allowing the Parliament to proceed with its business.

Gandhi Comments on Opposition Policy, Principles

BK1907170189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] The prime minister has offered to debate and discuss the CAG [comptroller and auditor general] report on the Bofors or any other issue in the current session of parliament. Mr Gandhi asserted that, like on the debate on Punjab in the Lok Sabha yesterday, the Congress Party will carry the day on any issue, including those which the opposition may wish to raise. Addressing the Congress-I parliamentary party in New Delhi this

morning, Mr Gandhi said the opposition parties have no viable policies but merely popular slogans, like the cancellation of all bank loans, meant to deceive the people. He regretted that some people in their lust for power are busy trying to destabilize the country by joining hands with communal forces.

Observing that the biggest threat to the country's unity is from communalism, Mr Gandhi said it is unfortunate that the leaders of the opposition are not able to stand up for the principles and ideals they have themselves (?espoused). He said that he had never expected to see the red and saffron [communist and communal parties] flags flying together on the same flag pole.

The Congress-I parliamentary party general secretary, Mr P.N. Shukla, who briefed newsmen after the meeting, said that Mr Gandhi dwelt at length on the recent developments in Punjab and reiterated the government's determination to deal firmly with terrorist violence there.

Mr Gandhi said that the battle against terrorism is a difficult one, but there is no doubt we will succeed in the coming months. The links of the terrorists with religious institutions have already been broken. The gurdwaras [Sikh temples] are no longer being used as sanctuaries for terrorists and their weapons, or as centers to incite them. The police force is no longer required inside the gurdwaras in Punjab.

Referring to the support the terrorists were receiving from across the border, Mr Gandhi said he had taken up the matter with the Pakistan prime minister and she had taken steps which have made a difference. However, it has to be realized that there are forces across the border which are continuing to assist the terrorists. We are fully aware of the designs of those who are attempting to destabilize the country, Mr Gandhi added.

The prime minister said it is a sad fact that there are certain opposition leaders who are tacitly encouraging terrorists. He regretted that on the day the Moga [in Punjab] killings took place, a frontal organization of the Janata Dal held a meeting in Chandigarh in which not a word of sympathy for those killed was voiced, nor was there a word of condemnation of terrorism. This amounted to tacit encouragement to terrorism, Mr Gandhi pointed out.

The prime minister observed that the position of the Janata Dal with regard to Punjab is exposed from the recent activities of one of its parliament members in UK and U.S.A. He said the member had addressed a meeting in a gurdwara in London controlled by terrorists. He had also met people with separatist views and joined them in maligning India. Likewise, a lady office bearer of the Janata Dal went there and behaved in a similar manner.

The prime minister noted that in a recent meeting of a frontal organization of the Janata Dal, a number of speakers had extolled and commended the Anandpur Sahib resolution [basic charter of Sikh's demands].

The prime minister said the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru are finding increasing acceptance in the world today. If our experiment in building a new India based on its strength drawn from unity in diversity fails, it will be bad not only for us but also the whole world.

Mr Gandhi said it is regrettable while the world is now coming around to our way of thinking, the opposition members are going in the opposite direction.

Criticizing a section of the press for thriving on misreporting and hiding of the truth, Mr Gandhi said the press had criticized him when he had accused a section in the opposition for supporting the Khalistanis [group demanding separation of Punjab]. However, when he had started reading from a pamphlet brought out by a frontal organization of the Janata Dal, this section of the press stopped focusing attention on the real issue.

Stating that the country is on the threshold of a major breakthrough in its economic progress, the prime minister said we must finish communalism and castism if we want to be really strong.

New Governors Appointed in 5 States

BK0107081689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] New governors have been appointed in five states. General K.V. Krishna Rao, presently the governor of Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura, has been appointed as the governor of Jammu and Kashmir. He succeeds Mr Jag Mohan. A Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] communique issued today says the minister of state for defense production, Mr Chintamani Panigrahi, has been made the governor of Manipur, while Mr Sultan Singh will be the governor of Tripura. The Goa governor, Dr Gopal Singh, has been shifted to Nagaland. The former textiles minister, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, will take over as the new governor of Goa and administrator of Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu.

Police Seize 10 Kg of Heroin in Delhi 16 Jul

BK1707113189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1049 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] New Delhi, July 17 (AFP)—Police have arrested two men and seized 10 kilogrammes of heroin in what is believed to be the biggest heroin seizure in the capital, an official said Monday.

In the first raid on the house of a suspected drug trafficker in a New Delhi suburb Sunday police recovered one kilogram of heroin, the official said.

In a second raid late Sunday, police arrested another drug trafficker and seized nine kilograms of heroin, the spokesman said and added that it was the biggest seizure of heroin in the capital.

The heroin, with an estimated street value of about six million dollars on the international market, was smuggled in from Pakistan, the official said.

Task Force To Curb Petroleum Smuggling to Nepal
BK0407100289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Text] A special task force has been set up in Katihar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway to curb smuggling of petroleum products to Nepal. Giving this information, the divisional manager of the railway has also said that during raids, the task force has seized over 2,000 liters of diesel.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Campaign Speech
NC2007182489 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1626 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Pre-election campaign speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. I thought there was no need for remarks about election programs, because the people have come to know me during this period. They are aware both of my ideas and my mode of operation. However, it was said that if I do not speak and do not state my programs, this may be interpreted as indifference. Therefore, I will state a few things for the voters so that they will use more insight when casting their vote.

Of course, I have a series of wishes for the country's future. There are a number of possibilities in the country which may not match my wishes. But I will try to state what I think can be achieved in a decade of reconstruction. If our hands were freer, we would have bigger wishes too.

First, our people should know that our movement should be based on the ideas of the revolution and within the framework of objectives delineated by our great Imam for our people.

The second point is that the general policies in our Constitution and in our system rest on the shoulders of the leadership, and the president and the Majlis are subject to those general policies. In other words, we cannot adopt decisions on our own unless these are to the result of consultation.

As far as programs are concerned, the final decision should be made by the Majlis, even though these programs are compiled by the government. Fortunately we are now compiling our 5-year program and our period in office will be within the framework of this 5-year program.

Of course we are subject to those general ideals and general policies that have been determined and of which we are all aware, and usually our activities are within these frameworks.

In order to start the discussion, I would like to point out that as far as foreign policy is concerned, we should continue the policy of "neither East nor West," of course in the way that has been said. In other words, this policy does not mean the severence of relations with the East and the West. This policy means healthy relations by negating expansionism and hegemony and by preserving independence, which is one of the most important foundations of our policy, both at home and abroad.

As far as other issues are concerned, I will only state the headings. For example, in the fields of culture and science, we have serious need for the expansion of our education centers, both in quality and in quantity. In other words, some of our people do not go to school, even in the lower levels. In the basic fields that are required, we have a serious educational shortage. In higher education too a large part of our youth are unable to attend the university. As for quality, certainly the existing situation is not acceptable. We should improve this, especially in the field of research where not much was done during the past era. During our era, some things were done in this field, but not enough. We should certainly strengthen the anti-illiteracy movement. We should strengthen general information in order to achieve the people's growth and the people's general culture. We have a serious need to strengthen culture, especially in the Islamic fields in which we are very poor in the world. We should improve ourselves in this, both as far as its tools and its technical needs are concerned.

As far as our youths are concerned, because of the war and the preoccupations of the revolution, we were unable to pay the necessary attention to sports. Our youths do not have sufficient healthy activities. Of course, many efforts have been made to provide these, but other preoccupations prevented us from achieving this.

As far as the women are concerned, I seriously believe that our women are not sufficiently represented in the important fields of social activities, despite the fact that in demonstrations, behind the fronts, and in support for the revolution, women were present on the scene on a vast scale. However, Islamic women and Hezbollahi women should also be present in affairs. One day, when the country becomes active and its wheels start moving, we will have a great need for women to be present in

affairs. I especially emphasize the education of women. We should be very serious about this and see to it that our women's education is at a favorable level.

As far as defense is concerned, we have repeatedly said that our defense structure should be strong, even though our policy is a policy of peace. But if we are not strong, our enemies will not leave us alone. We have chosen our path by putting the emphasis on domestic military industries in order to provide for our own defense needs and ensure tht we do not need to depend on others, and by putting the emphasis on the strengthening of the mobilization forces and on the alertness of the popular forces—something which we should certianly have.

Our main concern is the economic situation. In the decade after the revolution we were unable to attend to the everyday lives of people because of the war. We have some problems in our society. I think that the achievement of a flourishing economy is one of the topics that heads the list of our programs. Of course, this is if I am elected. If Dr Sheybani is elected, I will support him so that he can achieve these ends.

We have good opportunities in the country. From what I know—and I have quite a lot of information on this—during this decade which we have named the decade of reconstruction we can make our country self-sufficient and independent in many ways. I will only list the major points.

The first issue for us is agriculture, on which independence where foodstuffs are concerned and the country's self-sufficiency depend. Fortunately, on the basis of our current population and future population forecasts, we are capable of achieving self-sufficiency. We are not making good use of our water resources now. We are using only about 20 percent of these resources. Water is wasted. Our irrigation system is not as it should be. Many of our great rivers are pouring into the seas and their waters are leaving the country. We need several dams on our border and central rivers in order to harness our water resources. Good use is not being made of our underground water resources either, especially in the western area.

The land is not being properly used. The basis of agriculture was destroyed in the past. After the revolution, the government exerted many efforts—as far as the war allowed—and the situation improved. But we have an enormous amount to do yet. We think that even now, if we give the farmers the fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, and other requirements at the right time, we can become almost self-sufficient within the next 3 or 4 years.

We have everything we need within the country to manufacture chemical fertilizers. In other words, we can produce the various types of fertilizers that we use ourselves. We do not have all the materials needed, but we do have phosphate and other materials which can help us to become self-sufficient in this field. Factories are being set up to manufacture pesticides.

We should definitely harness our water resources. The plans that we have for this purpose in the 5-ycar program are good plans. They are not mine, but were compiled by our present government, and the Majlis is working on them. These plans are good and sufficient.

We can be very active in the field of heavy industries. As far as steel is concerned, if what we have in hand now materializes within the next couple of years, we will be able to suply our industries with 7 to 8 million tons of steel. This is a quantity that meets the current needs of our industries.

In the field of petrochemicals, which now constitute the main material needed by many of our industries, if we complete the plants that we are building and those which we have planned—and I will see to it that these plans are implemented rapidly—we will supply the material needed by our industries from our domestic resources. We are currently importing such material and we are spending a large amount of foreign exchange in doing so.

We should have a sufficient number of industries to supply consumer products. In most fields we have almost as much as we need and in some fields we have even more than we need. I am speaking about industries which should be supplied with the necessary materials in order to ensure the people's requirements, in turn. This is one of my policies. In other words, a short-term project which, I think, is the only thing that can be done rapidly and within a period of 1 year is to supply material to these industries and to activate them. If this happens, and we are able to supply these plants with what they need for a couple of years, the plants can—by exporting part of their production—become self-sufficient. They will not need government funds any more. This is something that I have included in my program and the preliminaries for this are ready now.

We are very strong in mining. There are good programs under the 5-year plan which provide for our domestic needs to be fully met, ensure that some of the foreign exchange that we need will be obtained, and also put the industries of the country and the region into action.

An extremely important field to which I accord significance in my activities is that of gas. I would like to explain something to our people at this point. The people know that our gas resources are extremely rich. If we succeed in distributing this gas to the entire country through a pipeline, we will be able to carry out a very great task. In other words, if what we foresee in our 5-year plan—that is, the distributionof gas to most parts of the country—with economies in the consumption, heating, and other types of oil, and other intermediate products that we will be making—we will have between 500,000 to 700,000 barrels of oil, which we are now

using ourselves, available for export. In other words, in the current situation foreign exchange income of between $2 billion and $3 billion would be ensured for the country. The people too will be happy. Gas is a healthy fuel which does not pollute the atmosphere. It is cheap. This will be seriously followed up. Irrespective of who will be elected, this is something that should be done. The Majlis too supports this.

The failure to harness our water resources was one of the blatant treacheries committed by the past regime. There are about 20,000 megawatts of hydro-energy in our country and we intend to harness about 15,000 megawatts of this in two 5-year plans. If this happens, then the country will have the healthiest, cheapest, and most reliable source of energy, which is what fuels a country's economy.

As far as health issues are concerned, our people are facing a problem now. We should see to it that urgent needs are met. Of course, the basic thing is to strengthen our pharmaceutical industries and the tools of our health system. Fortunately, attention has been paid to this in the 5-year plan. I too pay serious attention to this because our manpower relies on it.

In meeting manpower needs, in addition to the universities that we have, we have an extremely important task which is something in which I am very interested. I do not know how successful I will be in this, but I will try. This is to place those youths who cannot attend univesities in vocational schools and training centers, so that we can transform them into skilled workers and gain technicians, something which our country greatly lacks now. We do not have a sufficient number of trained workers or technicians. If this problem is solved, in a decade we will have saved our youth from unemployment and we will have removed the pressure from the universities. We will also be able to improve our work climate.

As far as distribution is concerned—and this is our major problem—what I want, and I do not know how successful I will be in achieving this end, is to do away with the multiple-price system which prevails in the country and is a source of all kinds of corruption. This corruption has unfortunately spread to the public sector too, by becoming active in the free market and so on. Furthermore, this has led to much corruption in trade. It has led to situations in which some people have acquired wealth easily through certain tricks. And many people are suffering from this multiple-price system. Of course, this is a difficult task. If we do not create conditions of plenty we will not be able to tackle it. However, we will try to solve this problem, God willing.

I place stress on production. I think that if there is no production in the country, no one will be able to solve the problem. If we activate our factories—which we can do—and supply the market with products, we will be able to improve things. This is the starting point. Of course we have problems in trade too, and these problems should be solved. There may be inopportune limitations now which should be removed. We should make it possible to import products and distribute domestic products in the market in a good way. These are things that we should attend to. We should open the closed channels and gain the people's trust. One of the important things which, I think, is necessary and which the system should do is assure the private sector that its legitimate resources will remain in its own hands, so that in this way it will be able to invest. I am not speaking about the immense capital which currently exists in our country [as heard]. We will not allow this to happen. However, we should allow the middle class that has potential and can set up cooperative companies and so on to participate, especially in the production sector—and I emphasize the fields of agricultural products, animal and poultry breeding, fisheries, and so on—since these are fields in which weakness is wasting our major resources.

I think that one of the things in which we can achieve self-sufficiency rapidly, if the private and public sectors cooperate, is the country's protein resources; that is, fisheries and existing animal and poultry breeding units. If we attend to this field by supplying animal feed, breeding stock, and fishing equipment, we will be able to attain our goal. In the past, the government faced problems stemming from the war and it was unable to attend to this seriously. We may be able to see to these matters. If the private sector has confidence in these fields and enters production, we will strengthen the banks—and this is the current policy of the government too—so that they will use their resources for production instead of for distribution and services. Of course, the banks should be active in these fields too. But we have to change direction and concentrate on production. With the presence of the people, by the reassurance of the people, and with less intervention by the government in the people's affairs, we can gain the people's confidence. Once this is achieved and production and distribution activities are carried out in a correct way, then we think that a great deal of the tension that exists in the market will be eased and that the uneasiness felt by many people—both buyers and sellers—will be mitigated.

The issue of our money is a significant one and I am making plans for this now. The double-rate system of foreign currency and the odd difference that exists between the true value and the official value of the rial vis-a-vis foreign currencies is one of the bad things that creates corruption. This should be corrected. True values should be achieved and brought closer, thus creating a natural situation in the market.

Of course, I have stated that these are not things for which the former government should be blamed. The pressures of the war, the psychological problems caused by the war, boycotts, and sieges created these difficulties. But now things can be different, up to an extent. And I especially emphasize peace. We should strive seriously

for peace to be established in the region. If there is no peace in the region, then I do not think that matters can progress as they should. Fortunately with the new conditions that we have created, we are not far from peace. Trust among neighbors and a calm situation in the region can automatically solve many problems for us.

Housing is a serious problem faced by our people and our country. I believe that it is a major task of the government to place construction materials and land at the disposal of the people. Construction materials comprising cement and steel and so on are things for which we have industries in the country. This should not be a difficult field to expand. As far as land is concerned, apart from Tehran, this is not a great problem. Of course, Tehran needs its own special policy so that we do not allow the city to grow in such an illogical way. There is a contradiction between granting possibilities for housing and preventing migration. A correct formula should be found.

As far as those who are on fixed incomes are concerned, we know that after the revolution they faced a serious problem in view of the high prices. These people—civil servants and workers on fixed incomes—face problems because of the inflation that has been imposed on us. This problem cannot be solved merely by increasing wages, because if we approach the problem in this way, then we will only have increased inflation. We should think of another way. The current government thought about this, and we are thinking about it too, hoping that we will be able to do something.

On the whole, the program that should be compiled should be such that it will ensure the elementary needs of the people in a favorable way. This is an extremely difficult and complicated task under current circumstances. But, God willing, with public cooperation we will be able to think of a way.

I should state in front of the people that, thank God, in the Majlis we prepared the law on councils some time ago. The Interior Ministry has also prepared the preliminaries for it. Council elections will take place soon and we think that after the elections the participation of the people in solving administrative problems, supervising the affairs of the country, and, especially, supervising the municipalities will be very important. My policy is to use the councils to reform the country's administrative system, which is a problem for the people.

As far as welfare is concerned, we can obtain relative welfare for the people in the ways that I have stated. Of course, it will be useful to note that these things cannot be dealt with rapidly, in a matter of a few weeks or a few days. Our people certainly know this. These are things that can be achieved only through long-term planning.

Matters such as atomic energy to which we have paid insufficient attention are of great importance to me. We should definitely have nuclear energy technology in our country; and we are not far from this point.

As far as our telecommunications and our country's communications and railways are concerned, these are infrastructural things that should be definitely attended to. Instead of spending time going here and there, people should be able to use the telephone. Sometimes it is thought that the telephone is a luxury item. But using the telephone is the best ways of economizing. It can help people in villages, cities, and towns to do what they have to do without wasting time, fuel, and energy. Only satellite technology can solve our problems today. People should not think that these are luxury things of the distant future. No. We should definitely see to it that these are made use of at this time. This is both possible and practical for us. We also have the potential to do so. We are looking into these things.

Something else on which I place great stress is the issue of railways, and city rail, especially in Tehran. We have polluted Tehran because of the existing traffic sitution. I attach great importance to this issue. This was something that I considered from the past too. The environment, in a world which wants to run itself mostly on industry, is among the major problems of the country. I especially point out to the people that they should cooperate seriously in keeping the atmosphere healthy and preventing dangers that industrialization can pose to the people's health and welfare.

Of course, many of the things that I have stated are my wishes. Some of them can be fulfilled in a short period. Some cannot be fulfilled so soon and need work. If there is cooperation and coordination in the country—and thank God, there is—my policy is to use all powers and prevent some from becoming isolated and others from dominating, but ensure that everyone works together. If we preserve this unity and preserve cooperation between the people and the government, we can reach our ideals. The major tool for our activities is our system of administration. Unfortunately, we have some problems here and we should think of solutions for these. And God willing, we will think of something. However, a large part of our administrative forces are working satisfactorily.

It is of extreme significance to attend to the country's deprived areas, villages, and deprived places. This will prevent migration and will ensure justice. Our social justice now is blemished because of the serious differences that exist between the sectors that are not deprived and the deprived sectors.

Youth unemployment is a great problem. With the measures that I have proposed, unemployment can be mitigated to a certain extent. It is through education and through the activation of the industrial, agricultural, and other fields that we can end unemployment.

The tribes are extremely important for us. Fortunately we paid attention to them after the revolution. But this attention has not been sufficient.

The country has a great obligation toward the villages. Fortunately, after the revolution, villages received much attention. But the villages are extremely backward and we should do more for them by building roads and taking roads, water, electricity, gas, and health services to them. Because of the vastness of the country, this will take a long time.

The reconstruction of areas that were damaged during the war and special attention for the families of martyrs, prisoners of war, those missing in action, and, especially, the disabled are among the general policies of all of us. Everyone, wherever he may be, attaches importance to this. And it is through the cooperation of the people that such things can be properly done.

At any rate, it is with the cooperation of the Majlis, the government, the legislative system, propaganda means, and the tools needed to inform the people, plus the support of the leader—and, fortunately, our leader is currently fully aware of the details of the country's needs—and his presence on the scene of action that we can solve many of our problems. Even though we do not feel the great presence of the imam—which is a tragedy for us—and even though we do not have the directives of the imam which sometimes miraculously solved problems, nevertheless the presence of the scene of our new leader His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i can heal many of our ills.

We hope that our nation will do its duty and that we too will be able to perform our own duties.

May God's peace and benedictions be upon you.

Ayatollah Rohani Cited on Election Prospects

PM0307142089 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 28 Jun-4 Jul 89 p 11

[Interview with Ayatollah Mahdi Rohani, "Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Rival in Iranian Elections," by Nura Fakhuri in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Fakhuri] It is known that your rival in the Iranian presidential elections, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, is much stronger than you. Do you expect to win the elections?

[Rohani] The claim that my rival Hashemi-Rafsanjani is stronger than me is erroneous. And if the Iranian people are given the choice, the truth will win out. Hashemi-Rafsanjani is not stronger, and he has lost a great deal over the past 10 years because of his internal and foreign policies. And to consider Hashemi-Rafsanjani one of the present power centers is his weak point. This, because people in Iran are against the Khomeyni regime and those who represent it. For 20 years I have fought dictatorship in Iran, and, with the groups which support me, I am much stronger than Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

[Fakhuri] Who does support you? Who are you talking about.

[Rohani] The Iranian people. [passage omitted]

[Fakhuri] What happened during Khomeyni's funeral was a kind of mass hysteria; such cases are familiar in sociology.

[Rohani] I attach a deeper importance to what happened on that day than that which you describe. The Iranian people expressed—violently perhaps—their sympathy and support for religion and the "revolution," but that does not mean that all those who attended the funeral, including clerics, loved Khomeyni or are want his regime. Besides, those ruling Iran today do not represent the Iranian people. For 10 years no free elections for the presidency, Majlis, or any other position have been held. The source of everything was the vice-regent of jurisconsult [reference to Khomeyni], and I have always been against that principle, because it has nothing to do with Islam at all.

[Fakhuri] So what has been changed in Iran?

[Rohani] The dictator has gone and there are not many centers of power now.

[Fakhuri] On the contrary, there are still numerous centers of power—in fact more than ever.

[Rohani] The only center of power in Iran today is the will of the people, who have recovered their determination.

[Fakhuri] What about the conflicting groups (Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Ahmad Khomeyni, Montazeri, and Bazargan)?

[Rohani] This is a misconception, since they are Khomeyni's followers. The strengths of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Ahmad Khomeyni, Reyshahri, or others were automatically derived from Khomeyni. Sometimes when the electricity is cut off from a machine in operation, the machine tends to work for a short time and then stop. That is exactly what is happening in Iran today. The Iranian people obeyed Khomeyni for several reasons, but now they have woken up.

[Fakhuri] It was 2 years ago that you shouldered the responsibility for announcing that Imam Musa al-Sadr was still alive after his 10-year disappearance. You also said that he would be freed within a few days, but he has still not been seen. Do you not think that you have lost a great deal of your credibility after that announcement?

[Rohani] Not at all. Some very important officials knocked on my door and told me: Your cousin is still alive. I trusted them and informed the world of it without loosing anything. They [not further identified] did not release him, but I told the truth. And I still maintain that Musa al-Sadr is alive. The same people came to me several months ago with a video recording and I saw Al-Sadr in prison. He looked old. I sent the video to his family in Tehran, and you can verify that. I had nothing to gain from announcing that he would be released soon: I am not Lebanese and have nothing to do with what is happening in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

[Fakhuri] It is known that election campaigns are costly. Who will finance your campaign?

[Rohani] Many bazaar traders contacted me, confirming their support and backing for me with however much I needed.

Council of Guardians Appoints Officials
LD2007115589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Excerpt] At today's session of the Council of Guardians, Ayatollah Mohammadi-Gilani was appointed secretary, Dr Hoseyn Mehrpur vice secretary, and Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani spokesman for the Council of Guardians. [passage omitted]

IRNA Describes Security, Expediency Councils
LD0607195689 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—The Constitution Review Council, in its Thursday's session, approved two new articles regarding the duties and composition of the "State Security Council" and "Expediency Council".

1. The first article states: In order to safeguard the country's territorial integrity and national sovereignty, and decide its security-defense policies for the sake of national interests, and within the "domain" of the policies decided by the leader, and to coordinate political, intelligence, social, cultural and economic activities in connection with general security-defense measures, and also to exploit the country's material and spiritual resources in countering internal and external threats, a "supreme security council" is formed under the chairmanship of the president and with the following composition:
Heads of the three branches (of the government)
Chief of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces
Ministers of foreign affairs, interior, and (security) information official in charge of the plan and budget affairs
Two (Majlis) deputies selected by the leader
A relevant minister depending on the case

The Supreme National Security Council, in proportion to its duties, will form sub councils such as defense council and state security council. Each of these sub councils will be chaired by the president or a member of the supreme council decided by the president.

The limits of the authority and duties of the sub councils will be decided by the law and their organisation approved by the supreme council.

The approvals of the state supreme security council will be implemented after being confirmed by the leader.

2. The "Expediency Council" is formed upon the order of the leader. The permanent and provisional members of the council will be decided by the leader.

Daily Urges Strong Response to France Over Envoy
LD2007171189 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 20, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy was asked to strongly react to the latest insult of the French Government against Islam, which seems to have been timed with the return to Paris of Iranian Ambassador 'Ali 'Ahani.

Commenting on press reports of the release of the French version of the sacrilegious novel 'The Satanic Verses' in Paris, KEYHAN said today, "it seems to be the French Government's way of pretending that it did not kneel down properly before the worldwide Muslim opposition."

The ummah as a whole including Iranian Muslims, said the Persian daily "are dutybound to give the right answer to the shameless act." Authored by the Indian born British apostate, Salman Rushdie, the Satanic work is part of an imperialist-Zionist plot to profane Islam and the pristine pure personality of God's last prophet to mankind, Muhammad (peace be upon him and his family).

The author, according to divine laws against apostasy, was justly sentenced to death last February by the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, whose decree drew support from all lovers of justice around the globe including those in France, who staged massive anti-Rushdie rallies in Paris.

The unnamed French publishers wish to remain anonymous for fear of Muslim wrath for his misdeed, but, said the Persian daily, judging from foreign news despatches the French minister of culture in an apparent act of hostility towards Islam, has given his word to back the publishers.

"If France and other Western states have truly taken such a stance, then without doubt it is a stupid decision, far from being realistic politics," it added.

Perhaps the West wants to put a 'brave face' despite its repeated set backs against the global Islamic revolution, thought KEYHAN, and added that it would have been wise for the West to have admitted its miserable defeat at least in the Rushdie affair.

If the West including France do not want to admit their defeat, said the daily, "they can continue their wicked struggle against world Muslims so that in the end it would be clear who will emerge the victor: Islam and its rich culture or the West and its corrupt culture?"

Misled by the British Government, France and other EC states had withdrawn their envoys from Tehran, which forced Iran to follow suit and snap ties with chief culprit London after a week's ultimatum last March.

Soon Britain which continues to shield the criminal author from justice was isolated, as EC states ate the humble pie and quietly sent back their envoys to Tehran, the last to do so being West Germany and France.

Iravani Denies Report on Moscow Agreement

LD0407070789 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 4, IRNA—Iran's Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani denied a THE WASHINGTON POST report quoting him as having said that Tehran-Moscow reconstruction agreement will cost Iran dls. [dollars] 15 billion.

In an interview with TEHRAN TIMES Iravani said he had told the post that the agreement will cost Iran dls. 7-8 billion. THE WASHINGTON POST report was picked up by the REUTER.

"THE WASHINGTON POST correspondent either misunderstood me or wrongly presented my version," he told TEHRAN TIMES.

"What I meant was that there are certain projects which will cost dls. 7-8 billion in hard currency and the same amount is required in rials for the materials, to be used through domestic sources, for which rials will be used."

Iravani also denied having said Iran will seek Western technology if they are superior to those offered by Moscow.

"I told the reporter that the Soviet Union is one of the four countries which are on the top in the fields of energy, dam construction and mateorology."

"They are better than the West and this being so a comparison with the West is of no use. And I did not mean at all what THE WASHINGTON POST has attributed to me," Iravani said.

Commentator Views Majlis Speaker's USSR Visit

NC0707110689 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Jul 89 p 3

[Akhundzadeh Basti commentary: "Security and Stability, a Shared Concept of Iran, USSR"]

[Text] The historic visit to Moscow by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani is a breakthrough in relations between two neighboring countries. Indeed the warmth and hospitality accorded by the Soviet side in the course of meeting and the important agreements that had been concluded between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Gorbachev bears witness to the fact that everything went well. This is in contrast to what certain media particularly in Western countries were predicting and expecting of the meeting. The success of the visit was predictable but not in terms anticipated by the Western media.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a press conference in Tehran outlined the achievements of the visit and said that the leadership in USSR conceived and realized that the Islamic Revolution in Iran has the brimming support of the masses and the system has been totally stabilized.

Although there have been many up's and down's in relations of two countries, yet given the changes in the Soviet policy and new thinking of Gorbachev together with the political will of either side, many issues could be discussed in a friendly atmosphere.

The multi-billion dollar agreement has been signed covers mostly the infrastructural segment of the economy as a whole and it deals mostly and is in tune with the reconstruction policy of Iran. Stability and security in the region and particularly in Persian Gulf constituted an important element of discussions between the two leaders. It is a fact that the economic prosperity and boom in the region hinges on the security and stability in a zone free from tension and rivalries. But one cannot deny that it is the ruling cliques in Baghdad that through intransigent policies and attitudes impede and frustrate any real progress in full implementation of U.N. Resolution 598. In fact the Islamic Republic of Iran by fostering sound and close relations with her northern neighbor disclosed her tolerance, clemency and seriousness in reaching agreements in different fields. But we cannot wait too long for the regime in Baghdad to come to its senses and accept reality and honor her international obligations. In other words we cannot be bogged down and delay the execution of reconstruction programs and wait for the ruler in Baghdad to accept realities.

Once Hashemi-Rafsanjani is in the Presidential Office one can expect further consolidation of different policies, given that a boost in activation of foreign policy in the region and in international arena is in the offing.

Larijani Recalls Gromyko's Views on Iran
LD0607195189 Tehran IRNA in English 1802 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—Former Soviet President Andrey Gromyko was cast in the classical Marxist-Leninist mould with no elbow room for the rapidly changing world geo-political scene, believes a former Iranian diplomat.

His approach to the West was purely theoretical, and Gromyko - a vanishing species of the Cold War era - had no faith in regional detente, says Mohammad Javad Larijani.

Gromyko, who started his political career under Josef Stalin in the 1930s died last Sunday, and during his 26 year tenure as the Russian foreign minister earned the epithet of 'grim Grom' for being a tough negotiator.

Writing for the Persian daily 'ETTELA'AT' today, Iran's former Foreign Ministry deputy recalled his own experiences with the rarely smiling Gromyko.

"During my lengthy talks I concluded that he apparently backed the use of military force," thought Larijani, and said, Gromyko believed that if ever a clash were to take place between American and Russian backed states in the region, Soviet proxies would certainly win, even if the U.S. directly entered the fray.

An ardent believer in the spread of Marxism "even by force", Gromyko never quite understood the Islamic revolution, said Larijani, and was highly sensitive to Islamic slogans even when told that the Islamic Republic was not expansionist.

"How come that religion which is supposed to be the opium of the masses and a thriving ground for capitalism and imperialism, destroys imperialism itself, and at the same time preserving its revolutionary spirit negates the East," he recalled Gromyko's words in a meeting.

It was something strange for Gromyko - the diehard communist - that Islamic Iran should be suspicious of both the Soviet Union and the U.S., remembered the ex-official.

"It is an apparent insult to us when you say neither East nor West. Do you mean that East is something other than the Soviet Union?" the late Soviet leader asked. "No one can dominate you when you have this (Islamic) revolution, and of course the new Soviet leadership seeks healthy relations with Iran on the basis of mutual interest and good neighbourliness," the normally sedate Gromyko was quick to shoot back with a smile.

During talks with Gromyko, Larijani says he learned that three particular points were of constant worry to the Soviet official: first, the Afghan issue and the Islamic resistance in that country. Second, the future of Iraq in view of the close links of Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries with their Iranian brethren. And lastly, the rapidly expanding 60-million plus Muslim population in the Soviet Union.

Gromyko was of the opinion that the progress of the Islamic revolution in the world certainly creates problems for the Soviet Union in all the three above cited cases, he added.

However, concluded Larijani, Andrey Gromyko's theory was to have relations with Iran on the model of Moscow-New Delhi ties which "gives an indication of his idea of relations with Iran in the long-run."

Commentary on U.S Justification for Aggression
LD0307140889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1110 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The crime of downing an Iranian passenger aircraft in the Persian Gulf is a tragedy that history shall never forget. The U.S. warship Vincennes, one of the most sophisticated vessels of the U.S. naval fleet, fired two surface-to-air missiles which martyred 300 passengers and crew of the airliner. A report published by the U.S. Government on this incident admits that the U.S. commander of the warship did not have justifiable reasons for attacking the plane. The electronic devices on the USS Vincennes worked accurately. This report rejected the initial claims that the plane was flying outside the air corridor or that it was descending. But despite these facts, the U.S. Government continues to support the action which led to this incident. And some time ago, when the USS Vincennes returned to port in the United States, the criminals behind this tragedy, according to their own admission, were formally welcomed as national heroes.

In the culture of the U.S. Government, which is the biggest promoter and supporter of state terrorism, such barbaric and terrorist action is acceptable and praiseworthy. Nevertheless, the painful point of this affair is the blatant violation of human rights and the complacency of the United Nations and other international organizations in the face of this tragedy. The International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, after wasting much time with pointless discussions, not only did not act within the framework of its duties and responsibilities; rather, under the influence of U.S. policies, it even refrained from condemning this criminal deed. The UN Security Council, in the face of this most blatant violation of human rights, also refused to condemn the U.S. Government. As a result, the crime has taken a form which, on the one hand, portrays an unprecedented crime which led to the death of hundreds of innocent human beings, and on the other, portrays a boasting U.S. Government which is pleased with its action.

The question now raised is this: How can one react to the U.S. Government's persistant threats in violation of human rights? Informing public opinion about the U.S. crimes and the objectives and grudge that it is pursuing in this connection can ease the scale of the tragedy and prepare the necessary grounds for a global solution. If public opinion were to be informed about the nature and philosophy of America's crimes and if it were to understand the logical links behind its deeds and policies, an appropriate antidote could be found to prevent them from defending or justifying U.S. crimes. [sentence as heard] For instance, at present, by accusing the Islamic republic of supporting terrorism and even by blaming our country for some unpleasant incidents the U.S. Government is trying to justify its future actions. In fact, U.S. propaganda is the complementary part of that country's terrorist policies.

After the crash of a Pan-Am plane in Scotland, which was a heart-rending tragedy, much evidence was gathered and unofficial eyewitness accounts showed that the U.S. intelligence and espionage organization, CIA, was involved in this criminal deed. But by hiding these facts the U.S. propaganda systems are trying to blame their political opponents for this crime and, for instance, have accused the Islamic Republic. No doubt their objective in blaming the Islamic Republic for terrorism is to prepare the climate for U.S. terrorist actions against our country. This issue has been proved by experience and during the past 10 years we have observed how the Americans always justify their aggressive policies by blaming the Islamic Republic for terrorism. They accuse us of terrorism so as to justify such crimes as the downing of the Iranian passenger aircraft. The ruthless massacre of 300 innocent passengers of the Iranian aircraft, however, is an unjustifiable tragedy which history will never forget.

Daily Says Relations With U.S. 'Irreparable'

LD0307072589 Tehran IRNA in English 0625 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA—Iran could do better without the problems of U.S. relations, said an Iranian daily today.

"Tehran's relations with Washington are irreparable and those who feel the situation may change in the near future are advised to go through the pictures of mutilated bodies of Iranians on board the Airbus who could never think of becoming targets of American missiles," said the English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL.

An Iranian Airbus was shot down by U.S. cruiser Vincennes over the Persian Gulf enroute from Bandar-e 'Abbas to Dubayy on July 3, 1988, killing all 290 passengers and crew on board.

"Those speculating a thaw in Iran-U.S. ties should also note that optimism comes hard to all those familiar with U.S. adventurism round the globe."

The daily said that July 3 would be a flash back of the belief that Iran and the U.S. had "nothing in common".

"No right-minded person could ever think of the Islamic Republic forgiving the U.S. for this abhorrence and a series of other crimes against the people and their beliefs."

The Tehran government in unison with neighbouring states should embark on a strategy to terminate U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf region and to discourage other arrogant powers from extending their military facilities in this part of the world.

The daily recommended the regional powers to discontinue protecting and promoting U.S. 'interests' and move towards the betterment and welfare of their own people.

Referring to the unreasonable stance taken by big international organisations vis-a-vis the U.S. lawlessness the daily said the U.N. reaction was by far more surprising.

The U.N.'s failure to stand up to its commitments added "insult to injury", it said.

What the pioneers of international peace and stability ostensibly seemed to forget was that nothing can be honourable where justice is absent, pointed out the daily.

The first July 3 anniversary reminded the Iranian nation of the need to remain strong, vigilant and united to confront the enemies of Iran's national and religious honor, said KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL.

Pakistani Defense Official Arrives 19 Jul

LD1907143189 Tehran IRNA in English 1412 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA—Pakistani Minister of State for Defence Ghulam Sarwar Cheema and his entourage were received by Minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) 'Ali Shamkhani at the airport today.

Latest regional developments, cases of Iraqi ceasefire violations, the stalled negotiations and the Iraqi regime's role in this regard, will be discussed with the Pakistani official, Shamkhani said. During is 9-day stay in Iran, the Pakistani team will inspect several religious cultural and military sites including the fronts of the imposed war, he added.

Meanwhile, Cheema in an interview with IRNA hailed the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, as "the greatest religious leader of the twentieth century." Pakistani Muslims greatly loved the imam, and Cheema said his visit aims at further strengthening Tehran-Islamabad brotherly ties.

According to press reports the two sides may also discuss military cooperation in the fields of weaponry and defence.

Prime Minister Meets Turkish Oil Minister

LD2007202189 Tehran IRNA in English 1653 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 20, IRNA—Turkish Minister of State for Oil Affairs Ilhan Askin, in separate meetings with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh today, stressed his country's readiness to expand trade ties with the Islamic Republic.

The premier expressing hope for expansion of politico-economic ties with Ankara, replied that Tehran welcomes any measure which guarantees the economic interests of the two sides.

Meanwhile, Askin discussed economic cooperation especially in the oil field during his second round of talks with the Iranian oil minister earlier today.

Askin who arrived here last Monday, noted that expansion of bilateral economic relations can play a prominent part in Tehran-Ankara ties, and called for furthering of mutual relations.

Expert talks are underway for between the two sides concerning Turkey's decision to purchase five million tons of Iranian crude per year.

New Head for Foreign Ministry Section Named

LD0407102289 Tehran IRNA in English 1014 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 4 IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has appointed Manuchehr Motaki director general of the Western Europe Department, it was announced Tuesday. Motaki was formerly Iran's ambassador to Turkey.

Shipping Service to East Africa to Begin

NC2007135889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Mr Gado Girigissou, the Beninese commerce minister, met Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi yesterday. During this meeting, which was also attended by the prime minister's political deputy, the head of the Commerce Ministry, and the envoys of both countries, the Beninese commerce minister conveyed his condolences to the prime minister, the cabinet, and the Iranian nation on Imam Khomeyni's demise. He also paid tributes to Imam Khomeyni and prayed for his soul by reciting verses from the Koran.

The Beninese commerce minister referred to his country's economic strength and stressed that as in the past, Benin stands by Iran's side and hopes to play an effective role alongside the Iranian nation in foiling the pressures of imperialism. He expressed his wish for the prime minister's concurrence in greater cooperation between the two countries.

Mr Musavi, our prime minister, mentioned Imam Khomeyni's insistence on expanding relations with Muslim and Third World countries and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is to commence a regular shipping service, starting next week, from the Persian Gulf to East African ports. This service has been halted for more than a century due to the efforts of colonialists.

Khamene'i Addresses 200,000 Worker Supporters

LD2606124189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Dear listeners, as stated earlier in the news, over 200,000 factory workers throughout the country marched in Tehran today and at the president's office pledged their allegiance to his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the Islamic Republic of Iran's leader. I draw your attention to a report about the occasion:

Over 200,000 chosen workers from throughout the country, accompanied by Messrs Nabavi, Ayatollahi, Shafe'i, and Sarhadizadeh, the ministers of heavy industries, mines and metals, industries, and labor and social affairs and by deputies from those ministries and officials from the House of Workers, met his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the Islamic Republic of Iran's leader, this morning in order to pledge their allegiance.

At the meeting, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Sarhadizadeh expressed condolences on the demise of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, referred to the political-devotional will of his eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds, and said: Just as the prophet of God, may God's peace be upon him and his scion, left the book and honor for the Islamic ummah, the dear imam, too, left for our Islamic ummah the book, that is, the Koran, and honor, that is, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, about whom he said: I raised him. He stressed: The deprived and the oppressed will never become separated from the clergy and from the clergy's leadership.

According to our reporter following the assembly of workers at the president's office, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the Islamic Republic's leader, said in his detailed remarks: Witnessing the warm, faithful and intelligent sentiments of you dear workers would remind anyone of our dear imam's profound affection for you, the hard-working strata, who are the real pillars of the country's production.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran's system, the worker has had an historic and memorable presence on the two fronts of work and production and defense of the revolution, during the 10 years since the revolution. That is

to say, just that same motivation, which led to resistance on the war fronts and defense of the revolution, also led to sincerity and tirelessness in the production trenches.

The Islamic Republic's leader added: Throughout the revolution the presence of the workers was a stunning presence and no one can deny that. In the revolution's critical early days, counterrevolution invested in infiltrating this hard-working and faithful strata, in the hope that it might be able to deprive the revolution of that talented hand and powerful elbow. However, the strong fist of this intelligent strata of society struck such a blow at the enemies of Islam and at counterrevolution, that they were dazed and dispirited.

His eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i referred to the consolidation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system in the world and said: The secret of all successes and the fact that, despite the conspiracies of global arrogance, the Islamic revolution is powerfully maintaining its path with greater strength than ever, is a result of the spiritual link with and the trust of every member of our nation in God.

In another section of his remarks, the Islamic Republic's leader said: It is just these spirits that are overflowing with faith which have travelled the most difficult roads for 10 years. And today, when we look back, we are truly amazed at the difficult passes we have put behind us with the leadership of that certain heart. In the most difficult stages, our dear imam continued to be calm and sure and the people felt certain. The imam understood the people well and the people, too, truly and in all fairness understood their imam well.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i added: Our enemies and even our friends at an international level did not think that our people would be so united and that they would meet events and continue their path with such strength. That was a gift from God in return for your battles. And from now on, too, we must guarantee the revolution's security and safety and the ever-increasing growth of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system with just that same method and formula; that is, by maintaining faith, by working sincerely, by maintaining unity of expression, by having a spiritual link with God, by having self-confidence, and through a determination to overcome difficulties.

The Islamic Republic's leader said: Fundamentally, we founded our revolution on breaking the domination of the world's bullies and we will continue on our road, as before, with strength, purity and sincerity.

In another section of his remarks, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i referred to the importance of the workers' role in the country's production and economy and said: The main burden of production is on the shoulder of you workers, and the main priority of the country's economic development plans must be the workers. Undoubtedly, one of the main duties of the Islamic Republic's system is to financially and qualitatively improve the lives of that hard-working strata who have the greatest right to the country's production and the country's economic management; from the financial point of view, with suitable (?resources) and with the expansion of jobs and employment, and from the qualitative point of view, both workers and the country's officials and the public must know that the worker has a high spiritual and human value in the society.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed: You workers must keep in mind that the continuing honorable existence of the dear Iranian nation and the maintenance and continuation of the worthy slogans and stance of the Islamic Republic's system in the face of global arrogance depends of your efforts and work. You must perform that task with the greatest sincerity and seriousness. Of course, government officials must also try to provide the primary material so that the factories can work at full capacity.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sees Off DPRK Envoy

LD1907143689 Tehran IRNA in English 1353 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA—Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of North Korea was seen off at the airport today by Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

During his week-long stay, Yang held talks with Iranian officials on mutual ties, and visited several historical monuments and industrial projects in Gilan and Esfahan Provinces.

Yang represented Pyongyang at the 40 day ceremony marking the demise of the leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, last Thursday.

Majlis Speaker on Need To Improve Production

LD0407124789 Tehran IRNA in English 1130 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 4, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tuesday said boosting the country's economy through production and investment in production was the main priority.

Addressing the second day of a three-day nationwide gathering of Friday prayer leaders he added that in the post-war era the major task will be to boost the output of the factories which have been producing below capacity.

He described inflation and high prices as the main economic problems of the country which could be overcome through public confidence and their participation in production related investments. Otherwise, he added, the problems will be further aggravated.

On the issue of leadership he said although the late Imam Khomeyni due to certain reasons had not clarified the issue but he laid the guidelines in this respect.

He said Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i enjoyed an exceptional credibility in shouldering the task of leadership and expressed hope that through his leadership and public cooperation the existing problems will be solved and objectives of the Islamic revolution fulfilled.

The speaker further praised the late imam's move in calling for amendments to the constitutional law and said that such changes were needed to speed up solving of the problems.

He expressed hope that the changes will help further progress in the country's affairs and asked the prayer leaders to inform the public of these changes.

Economy, Post-War Reconstruction Examined
NC2506093589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Jun 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Islamic Republic Has All Factors of Economic Growth"]

[Text] The new leader of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, addressing a group of Iranian teachers on Friday, called for stepped-up efforts by those who in one way or another are involved in post-war reconstruction of the country. He further stressed that in the economic sector, the producers should intensify measures to increase production.

As made clear in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic, the private, government and cooperative sectors are, as a system intended to work towards the vital task of keeping the wheels of the national economy turning at brisk pace.

Yet the practical experiences during the last years, however, have shown that a rather too much of what can be termed stagnation has set into the economy and this certainly will not have that positive impact on the economy which we are right to expect. The achievement of the required national gross production growth targets wil be next to impossible if we do not make the necessary adjustments in our economic outlook. Undoubtedly, the 8-year imposed war with Iraq has been one of the main factors responsible for setting the country's economy in the direction of a "concentrated (specialized) economy".

But irrespective of the main motives for taking different economic stands by various political groupings during the past few years, the second decade of the revolution is hopefully a period of golden opportunities providing the best conditions to carry out such economic strategies as to prop up production and help the economy flourish.

At this critical juncture, the new leader it is envisaged will coordinate the executive and legislative powers in such a way as to evaluate and study the negative results of such a "concentrated economy". It is only after this scrutiny that the nation can take a firm long stride towards increasing production output and boosting per capita income. In this event the time factor which now seems to be working against our national interest, should no doubt change in constructive direction.

It seems that the new positive outlook for the country's new leader as well as that of the future head of the executive power, Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani have engendered natural and serious expectations among people, the most important of which is a movement towards tangible and rapid positive economic growth.

We already have factors that are fundamental to this economic move, e.g. vast manpower and a psychological disposition to work towards our goals, at our disposal. To be able to further such trends will be possible only if unhealthy and unsuitable economic ideas are abandoned.

The executive authority should do all in his power to create a new climate encouraging investment and create an assured and firm framework that can serve as a guarantee to investors. Furthermore, interference in the healthy operations of non-government economic sectors, which will only weaken these sectors should be avoided altogether.

Voice, Vision Plans Expanded Programming
LD1907103989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Excerpts] In the ceremonies which were held this afternoon with the participation of Mr Hashemi, the managing director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran [radio and television], and representatives from West German company AEG-Telefunken, whose company won the international bids to purchase 10 short-wave transmitters, 50 antennas, and the computerized control system for installation [as heard]. We start the news reports with the remarks of the managing director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in response to the questions of our reporter, Dehqanpur:

[Begin recording] [Hashemi] There are 10 500kw shortwave transmitters and 50 antennas, 48 of which are fixed, and one of them [as heard] is mobile, which has two systems, both high and low bands, high frequency and low frequency. This will complement the present station we have in Kamalabad. The changes they will bring about in the Voice and Vision programs will give us greater ability to transmit coverage of different parts of the world, the whole world. From that station [as heard] we will be able to simultaneously broadcast ten programs in ten different languages. Therefore, if we

broadcast 24 hours, or 18 or 20 hours per day, we can have more than 200 hours of programming. This can increase our ability in transmitting the Voice programs and our foreign programs.

[Dehqanpur] Mr Hashemi, when did the studies start for the setting up of these stations and with which countries do you have cooperation for their installations?

[Hashemi] [Passage omitted] In Mehr 67, last Mehr [month beginning 23 September 1988] we announced the details for bidding. The countries which manufacture these kinds of transmitters with the technical specifications we outlined were asked to present bids. A number of them participated. The study of the proposals of various countries and their different points of view began in Bahman [month beginning 21 January 1989] and it has continued until now. Of course, in the course of studying the proposals of different countries, the issue of the publication of "The Satanic Verses" in England came up, as did the hostile position of the British Government toward the Islamic Republic of Iran. At that time, we crossed Britain off the list and put aside England's proposal based on that insult and her hostile position. The proposals from other countries that had participated in the bidding were studied. Finally, the company AEG-Telefunken was chosen for having offered the best proposal both from the aspect of technical specifications, as well as cost and other conditions.

[Dehqanpur] Please tell us in which year the Voice of the Islamic Republic will use the new transmitters, which will bring the voice of the revolution to the entire world.

[Hashemi] The phased program, which has been made for that station, is that toward the beginning of 1373 [year beginning 21 March 1994]. In 4 years [as heard] they will be fully utilized in our network.

[Dehqanpur] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Pakistan

Further on Iranian Foreign Minister's Visit

Meets Yaqub Khan, Ishaq Khan

BK2007144589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Talks between Pakistan and Iran were held in Islamabad today. The Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, led his country's delegation, while the Pakistani delegation was led by [Foreign Minister] Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. They held talks on bilateral matters and regional issues, with special reference to Afghanistan. There was complete identity of views between the two countries.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati also called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. They exchanged views on the regional situation, with special reference to Afghanistan, and expressed their satisfaction at the development of Pakistan-Iran relations.

Meets With Benazir Bhutto

BK2007163089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Excerpt] The Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, had a meeting with the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, at Lahore Airport this afternoon and discussed bilateral relations and regional issues, with particular reference to Afghanistan. There was a close identity of views between the two sides on the Afghanistan issue. The prime minister told the Iranian minister that Pakistan was keen to find a political settlement to the Afghanistan problem in order to stop further bloodshed in that country. Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati said Iran shared this objective. [passage omitted]

Terms Talks 'Fruitful'

BK2107084589 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, has described his talks in Pakistan as fruitful and constructive. Talking to newsmen at Islamabad Airport this morning before his departure for home, he said these would help in formulating a coordinated policy, especially on Afghanistan.

The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who went to see off the Iranian leader, said efforts are continuing to broaden the base of the interim Afghan government. He hoped as a result of these efforts before long the representative of the eight-party alliance based in Iran will join the interim government. It would help promote the credibility and strength of the interim government and to achieve the (?end result) to solve the Afghan problem.

Yaqub Khan's Visit to Colombo Confirmed

BK2007164489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, will leave Islamabad for Colombo on Saturday [22 July] on a short visit to Sri Lanka. The visit is taking place under the directive of the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, who is chairperson of the seven-nation regional organization, the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation].

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will hold talks with Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa and Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne on the future of the association following postponement of SAARC foreign ministers meeting, which was to be held in Islamabad early this month.

He will also discuss with Sri Lankan leaders the next possible date for foreign ministers meeting and holding of the SAARC summit in Colombo in November this year.

Minister Cheema Discusses Defense Issues

BK1807091989 Karachi DAWN in English 2 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] Karachi, July 1—The Federal Minister of State for Defence, Colonel (retd) [Retired] Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, has indicated the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Government's intention of evolving a new defence system which would ensure the same level of national security as being provided under the existing arrangement, but at one-third the cost.

Answering questions of businessmen at a meeting on Saturday [1 July] which was primarily held to discuss the possibility of private sector participation in defence production industries at the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Minister said that the poor and rich nations work out their defence systems in accordance with the availability of resources.

Most of the questions pertained to national security issues and the mystery surrounding the Aug 17 air mishap which claimed the lives of the late President General Ziaul Haq and 29 senior military officers.

Asked about Pakistan's preparedness in terms of India's recent experiment regarding the firing of the long-range missile "Agni," he frankly admitted, "We do not have the necessary antidote to combat a missile attack."

"But for that matter, I can count at least 150 countries which do not possess an adequate system to counter a missile attack," he explained, and informed the businessmen that the two systems available for this purpose were the special radar system and the antimissile attack system.

"Both these systems are prohibitively expensive," he said, but gave a firm assurance that the Government was fully cognizant of the matter and was doing everything possible "within our economic constraints."

"Poor nations can also evolve an effective defence system," he said and cited the example of Vietnam and the Afghan Mujahidin who have successfully resisted invasions by superpowers.

He explained that the weapon system of any country was designed to achieve the goals and objectives of that nation and said that the firing of the long-range "Agni" missile reflected India's hegemonic designs to "control area stretching from Australia and New Zealand up to Suez in West Asia."

For this, he said, every Indian citizen is enormously burdened with defence expenditure compared to which, it is nothing in Pakistan.

The Minister said that the issue of defence allocation was a burning one and the Government has been giving due emphasis to cost-effectiveness and also to ensure adequate funding for other vital sectors.

In another context, he admitted that the Navy had been long neglected and the previous government did not give it due priority consideration. "But the problem again is that every modern frigate or submarine, no matter from where it is purchased, is exorbitantly expensive," he added.

He said that this issue would come up in the forthcoming visits of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Britain and France, in which he would be accompanying her.

Asked to explain the causes of the air mishap which resulted in General Ziaul Haq's death and the deaths of senior military leaders, Mr Cheema said, "It was an act of God."

"On authority, I can say that the late President was provided the best possible security," he explained, and reminded the businessmen that the plane which carried the late President was of the Air Force and not the ordinary passenger line.

He disclosed that the investigating [U.S.] FBI [Federal Bureau of Investigation] team had also approached him to enquire about the causes of the plane mishap. "I told them that the Government which immediately took over after General Zia's death constituted four or five enquiry boards which were all competent and adequate". These boards investigated the matter from all possible angles and the gist of their reports have been published in the newspapers, he added.

Twenty-nine of those killed in the Bahawalpur crash were my personal friends" he said. [quotation marks as published]

Earlier in his remarks, the Minister said that his Ministry had been a closed shop for many years because of psycho-social and historical reasons but now gradually, "we are shedding inhibitions and trying to establish a working relationship with the entrepreneurs."

He said that had businessmen offered participation in defence production industries 15 or 20 years ago, they would also have hesitated because of the "long gestation period of the defence industries."

But with the emergence of the new situation in the country, he said the conditions were ripe for joint venture projects and other modes of collaboration between his Ministry and businessmen.

He reminded them of the two-day seminar organised by his Ministry in early April, in Rawalpindi, to explore cooperation and collaboration with businessmen and hoped that the recommendations in the subsequent meetings of the Coordination Committee would result in the emergence of some concrete proposals before next April.

He said his Ministry was prepared to discuss all possible cooperation with private sector businessmen for participating in the defence production industries.

Referring to an issue raised by the President of the Karachi Chamber, Mr Mohammad Yunus Bandukda, about the availability of automobile telephone service, he said the Government would take some decision on this issue very soon.

Earlier, Mr Bandukda in his welcome address said the private sector was more than willing to make useful contributions in the development of defence production industries in the country.

Mr Bandukda said the private sector was keenly looking forward to the "modalities and mechanisms" for the private sector's participation in defence production.

In this connection, he also appreciated the formation of a "high-level body" to define private sector areas.

Mr Bandukda suggested a separate industrial investment schedule of defence industries, indicating the items, capacity, foreign and local components, possible location and other relevant information, is prepared for the guidance of investors.

The policy-package for defence production should envisage fiscal and monetary incentives and concessions and simplification of rules and regulations for supplies and manufacturing, he added.

Sri Lanka

Pakistani Foreign Minister To Visit 22 Jul

BK2007114889 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1107 GMT 20 Jul 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 20 July (LANKAPUVATH)—Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan is due to arrive in Colombo Saturday [22 July] for talks with Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa and Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne, official sources told LANKAPUVATH.

They said that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) would figure prominently at the discussion.

The Pakistan foreign minister is scheduled to leave the island later on Saturday.

The SAARC foreign minister's meeting, which was scheduled to be held earlier this month, was postponed indefinitely as Sri Lanka boycotted the conference as a protest against India refusing [to withdraw] its troops from the island.

MP's Urge Probe of 'Foreign' Source of Violence

BK2007144789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1418 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 20 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's ruling party MP's [members of Parliament] Thursay [20 July] urged the government to investigate if "a foreign power" was behind recent assassinations and murder attempts of public figures in the country.

The Government Parliamentary Group, at a meeting chaired by President Ranasinghe Premadasa, moved a resolution calling for the probe, a government spokesman said.

Buddhika Kurukularatne, an MP who moved the resolution, said that "grave doubts are now being entertained by many that the wave of violence unleashed is an attempt to destablise small nations like Sri Lanka."

Mr. Kurukularatne is from the ruling United National Party (UNP), which has been in power in Sri Lanka since 1977.

An official statement quoted Mr. Premadasa as telling the MP's that the government knew about "attempts made by various forces to disrupt and sabotage government activity and create confusion.

"These forces know that if the various programmes now in the process of being implemented bear fruit, it would thwart their political ambitions. There may be attempts by some to commit crimes and put the blame on others," the president added.

Mr. Premadasa added that the government had launched "a full scale investigation" into all political assassinations, but did not say if it would include involvement of "a foreign power" as demanded by the MP's.

Gunmen killed two senior Tamil leaders here last week while "subversives," a euphemism for anti-government militants, wounded a junior minister in a bomb attack elsewhere in the island early Wednesday.

Mr. Premadasa also reiterated that the presence of some 45,000 Indian troops in Sri Lanka, under a 1987 bilateral peace accord, was not necessary to ensure devolution of powers to the minority Tamil community.

"If that is the case, then they have to send foreign troops to all the eight provinces in the country where the devolution package applies," he said.

Mr. Premadasa also added that his government was duty bound to honour its election pledge of having Indian troops withdrawn at the earliest, "as far as possible by July 29."

New Delhi has rejected Colombo's call for a troop withdrawal by the end of this month, saying discussions were necessary on the subject. It has also said if discussions were not forthcoming, it would decide the issue unilaterally.

Mr. Premadasa was also quoted as saying in the statement that the Indian troops came to the country on the Sri Lankan president's invitation and "had to leave at the request of the Sri Lankan president."

Indian troops have been seeking to disarm the dominant Tamil rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), since October 1987. The LTTE has now entered into a peace dialogue with Colombo, bypassing India.

Search Stepped Up for Missing American Woman
BK2107095589 Hong Kong AFP in English 0918 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 21 (AFP)—Police have stepped up the search for an American tourist whose personal items have been found in Sri Lanka's central district, some four months after she went missing.

Police and U.S. officials said Friday [21 July] that investigations into the disappearence of Sandra Vallentine, 31, were centred around a pair of jeans, a credit card and two diaries belonging to her that were traced Monday.

They were discovered by some labourers near a privately-owned lodge at tea-growing Nuwara Eliya District, close to a stream where an unidentified body was found last month. But an autopsy showed the body was not that of Miss Vallentine, who is widely believed to be dead.

Miss Vallentine, from New York, arrived here March 20 and was last seen eight days later reportedly with two Sri Lankan men near the island's tallest mountain peak at Pidurutalagala, in Nuwara Eliya.

News reports Friday quoted Nuwara Eliya Superintendent of Police Maxie Perera as saying that police dogs were combing the forests in the area to trace the woman or her remains.

The American might have been killed some time ago, Mr. Perera added, without saying by whom.

Pidurutalagala's forests are known for their leopards and bears and the mountain itself is largely uninhabited, save for a television tower operated by the staff and guarded by security forces.

"We are looking for a body... as it is almost certain that Sandra is dead," the English-language SUN quoted Mr. Perera as saying.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman said the police had found "a lot of clues" and hoped to read Ms. Vallentine's diaries, which had been drenched by rain, after they dried out.

"We are hopeful we will resolve the case," the spokesman said. "Nobody is really hopeful that she is alive. It is four months since she has been seen."